# KEEP STRONG

## Lies Exposed In Huey Newton Hearing

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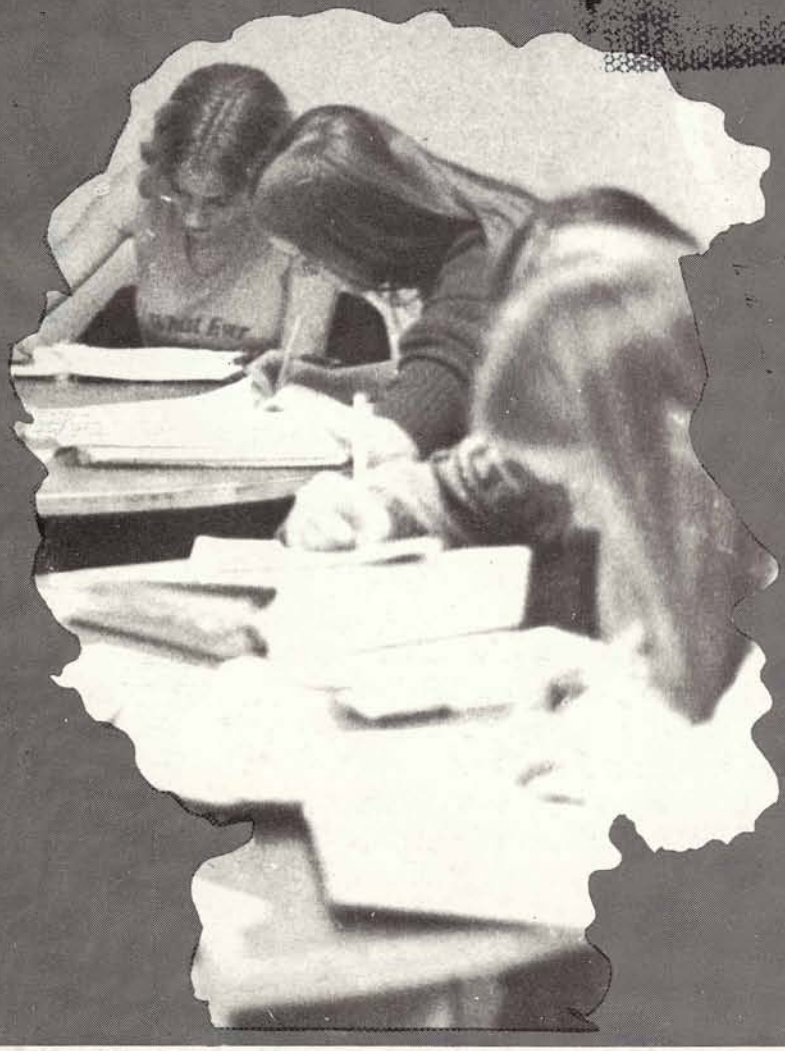
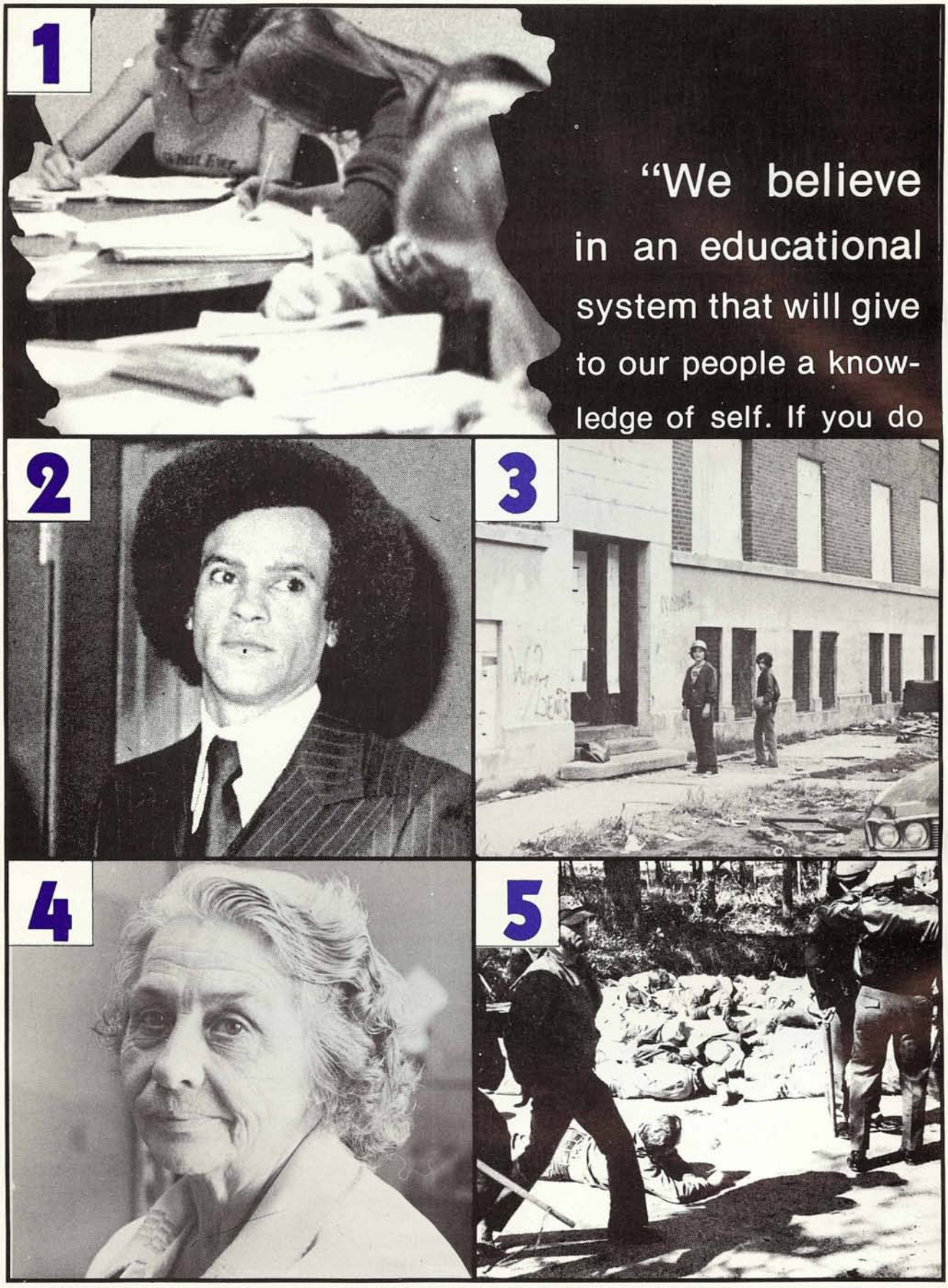


"We believe in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If you do not have knowledge of yourself and your position in the society and the world, then you will have little chance to know anything else."

## *In This Issue:*

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## *In This Issue*

**1. While there are those who would have us believe that anyone below a certain income, who has better job experience and education, is "unemployable" and "uneducable", concrete models to prove otherwise are being built. See Editorial page 3 and article page 30.**

**2. Key testimony against Black Panther Party founder and President Huey P. Newton was soundly destroyed in pre-trial hearings last month. See page 36.**

**3. As the resistance to Chicago's Masterplan grows and the intentions of the Economic Development Commission (the masterplanners) is further exposed (see page 39), a microcosm of the city's plans for Chicago's neighborhoods unfolds on W. Sunnyside Street. See page 13.**

**4. Reflections of senior citizens, with a wealth of life experience, are often ignored. See articles pages 42 and 44.**

**5. While miners in Kentucky battle for safe working conditions, steelworkers in Ohio face devastating layoffs and the economic destruction of their communities. See pages 25 and 50.**

# RECLAIM OUR MINDS

**"THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IN THE HANDS OF THE OPPRESSOR IS THE MINDS OF THE OPPRESSED"**

*What makes the Black Panther Party so dangerous that the full force of this very powerful system has been concentrated on its destruction? Why have the very powerful gone to such outrageous and even ridiculous lengths to discredit, defame, imprison and even kill its founder and President Huey P. Newton?*

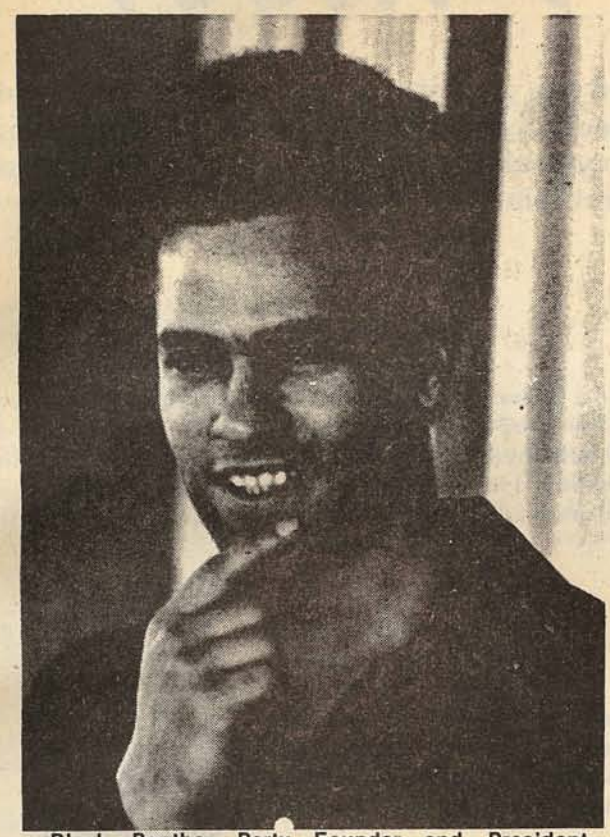
*It is the survival programs. It is the concrete day to day structures for service and survival that threaten to destroy the myth that oppressed people—Black, Latino, and White—are not capable of organizing successfully and do not have the human potential that those in power possess.*

*The survival programs threaten the idea that some people are superior and others inferior, and they threaten it in the most dangerous place: in the minds of the oppressed who develop and are served through the survival programs.*

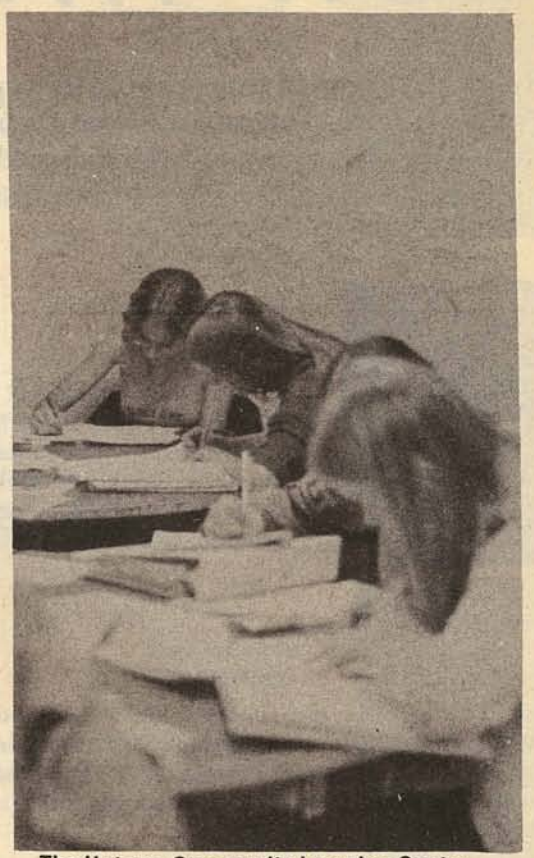
*History has a long memory but often we do not. We forget too easily the lessons of the past and end up having to learn over and over again by beating our heads against the same walls of stone. We become defeated. Our minds accept the contradictory idea that we are not capable, and we are therefore controlled.*

*We have been told that we are "unemployable" and "uneducable" and that our communities are unliveable because we are "ignorant" and "unclean." We are "incorrigible" and not worthy of better things or of a better life, we are told.*

*We should know better than this but too often we let ourselves be*



Black Panther Party Founder and President, Huey P. Newton



The Uptown Community Learning Center.

**"What makes the Black Panther Party so dangerous that the full force of this very powerful system has been concentrated on its destruction?...It is the survival programs. It is the concrete day to day structures for service and survival that threaten to destroy the myth that oppressed people are not capable of organizing successfully and do not have the human potential that those in power possess."**

***organized to believe those that would have us be uneducated and unemployed in hopes that we will disappear and go away.***

***We will not go away and disappear, so we might as well remember. We can build our own institutions and our own organizations of resistance. We can raise our own expectations by reminding ourselves that we can do anything. We just have to remember what we know. We have to take our minds back and make them our own weapon in our own arsenal for liberation.***

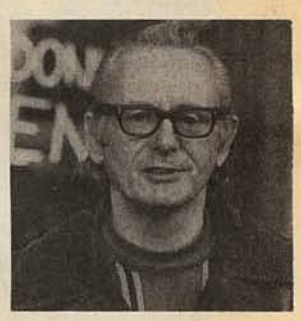
***People's institutions like the Oakland Community School and the Uptown Campus of the Daniel Hale Williams University should give us all the proof of this that we need. The fact that the Chicago school board would have us believe that we are unable to learn how to read while denying our children the educational experience that is necessary for anyone to learn should be our reminder. It is our fault insofar as we let it happen to us.***□

# ON THE STREET

**"Reading scores in the schools increased at a slower rate last year than they did the year before. The school board's projected policy is to prevent students from graduating 8th grade or high school. Do you think that this policy is a solution to this problem?"**

**Michelle Thompson**
**S. Cicero**

**"I don't think he should go to a higher grade if he's not reading at that grade level because it's not doing him any good to be promoted. I think they can also do something in the schools too; help them to be able to learn how to read better. They must be doing something wrong. I don't know what it is but they should do something about it. Instead of graduating them they should do something about the program in school."**



**Mike Hemmis**
**N. Clarendon**

**"The solution is in the schools. We're going to have to improve the teaching methods and a little more discipline, I think, is needed in the classrooms. The classrooms are a little too large too. Otherwise each student isn't going to be treated fairly. They've got some slower readers. They need more time than the ones that just jump to it."**

**Carolyn Ruckman**
**N. Kenmore**

**"I don't really know, but they can't learn nothing if they can't read. I know they're about three years behind. My nieces are in Tennessee. They went to school up here last year and they were way ahead. They made straight A's on what they did three years ago in Tennessee."**

**Ben Harvey**
**N. Magnolia**

**"They should be able to read before they pass them. Why should they go to school and not learn nothing? I've got a boy right now and I can't get him into school. They just refused him. They won't let him go to the school he wants to go to. I think that's wrong. They need more teachers instead of cutting back on them. That's the trouble now. They've got too many kids to handle, and they aren't getting the right education."**

**Cheryl Moss**
**N. Kenmore**

**"My two boys go down to the school there on Wilson and the oldest one doesn't read fourth grade level. He's thirteen. They should get some better teachers. They never bring homework home. So, if they would get some better qualified teachers instead of laying them all off then they could do it that way but it's not going to help none by keeping them from graduating."**

James Robinson
N. Kenmore

"I don't think we should hold the kids responsible. I think we should hold the teachers responsible. Why should you fail the kid, if you don't have the proper teaching, how can he pass? They have a good program—if they use it. How can you possibly say, 'we're going to cut back on it.' Why cut back if it's improving?"

Jack Patton
N. Clarendon

"Kids are only going to be kids one time. They need to get their education young in age and it just doesn't seem right to hold kids back. They should be given the chance while they're young. They've got tens of thousands of kids here in the Uptown area and if they lay teachers off, they're not going to have no teachers to teach them. The kids have got to have teachers to teach them."

Evelyn Laboy
W. Dickens

"I know a lot of kids aren't reading that well in school. It's better if they give them a reading program because how are they going to get through school when they don't have any comprehension?"

Marshall Stewart
N. Sheridan

"Just because he can't read and comprehend fast enough, there's no reason to fail him. Now if they cut back on teachers and cut back on reading programs, where they don't study enough, how can they expect them to pass? There's got to be a better way."

Lawrence Zornes
N. Magnolia

"They overcrowd these schools and they put more students on a teacher than what a teacher has really got time to work with, and they just have to run through it. I think that's where the whole problem is. I don't think the school board is really responding to the kids the way they ought to. They're not allowing enough room, not allowing enough teachers, and not allowing enough time, in the interest of the kids. I think the school board is responsible for all of this."

Debbie Duckman
St. Louis

"If they keep on failing the kids, when they turn 16, they're just going to drop out. They've got to encourage the kids. That's what I think we need. Encouragement and better teachers. The teachers seem to not care either. Nobody cares about the kids. The administration says they care about them but I don't think they really do. They care about their own jobs and the money and all that but I don't think that not graduating them is going to do any good."

# Western Social Services: Helping People Fight For A Decent Life

(Stockton, Calif.) A woman's husband comes home for two weeks at Christmas time. It's the end of the month. The food stamps have run out, the money is tight. The kids are expecting presents and they have no decent clothes for school. The woman's husband works off and on, and when he has money he helps out with a few dollars.

Several months later, the county welfare department's fraud squad uncovers the fact that the woman's husband helped her pay a few of the bills. Conservative editors and politicians label this a "successful fraud investigation." The welfare department turns the matter over to the District Attorney. From this it's just a hop and a jump to a formal complaint and an arrest warrant. The woman is picked up and arraigned in front of a judge and a court date is set. Within a few weeks the welfare mother will plead guilty to the charge and be ordered to pay back in monthly payments, the amount of money she "stole."

This highly questionable legal practice has become part of the Stockton, California welfare program. The District Attorney finds it not only convenient but all the convictions look good when he runs for election.

Recently, the public defender's office has begun to refer these types of fraud cases to a Stockton organization called Western Social Services. Western Social Services, a community based welfare advocate center/rights organization, helps the accused mother file for a fair hearing on the fraud charge and represents her in the administrative hearing that follows. Although it only takes one or two appearances in criminal court to get a welfare mother to plead guilty to fraud, in most cases that Western Social Services has handled through the state welfare department the clients were not found guilty.

Organized in 1970 as a group that could provide service, information, and direction to the daily efforts of poor Whites and Latinos in the San Joaquin County to survive, Western Social Services has become an important force in the community providing assistance in the following areas: ADC, General Assistance, Social Security, SSI, Veterans

**Sr. Rose Cirillo, director of Western Social Services: "bringing whatever changes are needed in this system to give poor people what they need to live a decent life."**

benefits, Food Stamps, Medi-Cal. The group is also the co-sponsor and main workers in the area's only Emergency Food Bank, providing 600-800 bags of groceries per month to families.

The organization has been in the forefront of a series of campaigns to bring needed changes to the welfare programs at both the state and county level. Most important among these was the presence of bi-lingual judges in the fair hearing division.

Pointing to the large number of families in the area who need some kind of assistance because of the seasonal nature of the work, Sr. Rose Cirrillo, director of Western Social Services, has outlined the major goals of the organization as "bringing whatever changes are needed in this system to give poor people what they need to live a decent life."

Asked why they had such a high rate of success in the fraud cases, Sr. Rose explained, "When the state is put in the position of having to prove intent, which is the most important element of the crime, they usually can't. If the state is not willing to pursue the matter after that, then the DA really has no business having the thing in court. We are asking that the District Attorney hold all of these matters up from prosecution until we are able to get through the fair hearings."

While Sr. Rose declined to comment on why the

welfare office was so quick to turn these cases over for prosecution on little or no evidence, other activists speculated that the welfare department was using the half baked fraud charges to discourage some people from applying for welfare and others from entering the county or staying around when the factories and canneries close down.□

# You Can't Rely On Them

(Chicago, Ill.) Joan Cattell lives on the Northside of Chicago with her two children, aged three and six. She is going to college in order to get enough education to get a decent job, but in the meantime she has to rely on public aid for support.

Starting almost a year ago, Joan had three missing checks. She reported each one to public aid. After some waiting, they sent her make-up checks.

Not long afterwards, she was sent a letter stating that she had cashed one of the original checks as well as the make-up check and that she would have to repay the money. Joan went down to the public aid office about this matter. "When I went down there, I was going to appeal, but they talked me out of it."

They told her they would take the money out of her monthly check in $43 dollar installments for 6 months. "The money they give you isn't adequate to begin with, then when they cut you down, forget it. It doesn't hurt me, it really hurts the kids. When they want an ice cream cone or something I have to say no, because I don't have the money.

Joan Cattel: "They take away all your self-respect and identity..."

"September was supposed to be the last of the six months, but they didn't stop. In October I got $218 again, instead of the regular $261 I'm supposed to get. I called the caseworker and she said she forgot to change it back. Then I got another letter that said I was cut off because I didn't go down there to give them my social security number. I knew I did that, so I called again and they said it was all a mistake, to forget about it. Who knows what would have happened if I didn't call.

"I only hope I can get a job and get off, so I don't have to depend on them because you **can't** depend on them. But there's a lot of people who can't do that. I only have two children, but women who have a lot of kids have to stay at home. Welfare is always trying to figure out how they can cut you off or cut you down. It's just inhumane. They take away all your self-respect and identity so you don't even think you can get a job."□

# The High Protein Diet

Brenda Sue Johnston is 18 years old and 8 months pregnant. She applied for General Assistance last June. She was pregnant at the time and asked the intake specialist if there was any way she could get additional food stamps or money for food. She explained that she had no money and therefore had not been eating properly to give her growing baby the food it needed. She had been living on sugar from Coca Cola and cookies which are cheap and always available.

The intake specialist said that welfare no longer provides additional money or food stamps for pregnant women. "You will be getting $179 per month, and you will be paying $20 for $52 worth of food stamps and $125 for rent. Now, we have worked out your budget and if you properly handle your money you should have no problem eating for you and your baby. Of course, if you don't plan ahead to the end of the month that's your problem. You people have got to learn how to spend the money the government gives you."

Brenda soon found out that her food stamps were spent after the first two weeks of the month and that she was still not getting an adequate diet. "I'm weak and I'm tired all the time. I don't have enough money to buy whole milk or meat. I can eat O.K. for two weeks and then there just is no more food stamps or money. I have a friend who feeds me because she doesn't want to see a baby born into this world sick

before it even starts. She sees how hard I try to stretch my money, but after the rent and food stamps, I'm left with $30 for everything else.

"I can't even take a bus to go to see a decent doctor. The doctor here in Uptown that I was seeing gave me nerve pills because I was so scared and nervous that my baby would be born sick. Now I found out that the nerve pills may have caused damage to my baby and that I won't know until it's born. My stomach is sick from worrying so much and my new doctor told me to just stay at home and rest. How am I supposed to hustle up enough money for the food I need when I have to stay at home all the time and rest?"

**Brenda Sue Johnston: "I can eat O.K. for two weeks and then there is just no more food stamps or money."**

The Welfare Defense Program at the Uptown Peoples Community Service Center investigated the Department of Agriculture's WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program, hoping to find a source of additional food for Brenda.

Advocates called the local welfare office and were told by a supervisor that she had never heard of that program or of any program. They called the Departement of Agriculture Food and Nutrition section and spoke to Ms. Jackson who explained the WIC program in a most optimistic manner. A pregnant woman is eligible for up to one year, and a woman who is bottle feeding her baby is eligible for up to six months. A child under the age of five may also be eligible. The program is administered by a local Department of Health facility of the Chicago Department of Health and the money is provided by the Department of Agriculture, the same place food stamps come from.

There are certain requirements to get onto the program. The woman has to live in the area normally served by the clinic; she has to have a low income; and there has to be a health problem, such as being undernourished or having inadequate diet or anemia. The woman or child gets a complete health check up and talks with a nutritionist. Once certified, the woman can get coupons every month which are for high protein foods, such as milk, cheese, meat, eggs and infant formulas; these coupons can be used at local stores.

The advocates then called Ms. Taif, the WIC co-ordinator for Chicago. At first, she ran down the same optimistic story. However, there is no such program in Uptown and there is no anticipation of such a program in Uptown. The federal government, U.S. Department of Agriculture, had the City Department of Health survey the city of Chicago for infant mortality rates. The federal government was willing to finance programs in only two sections with the highest infant mortality rates, which are the south and southwest sides. There are only 11,000 people, including the children, on the program and the waiting list is months long. "The program runs out in September, 1978, and we don't know if Congress will give us any more money. If we do get money, I don't think it will be any more money than we are getting now and in that case we will not be able to expand. There are no other federal or local programs for poor people. I don't think the amount of money the federal government is willing to give is an issue. The amount is based on how much our two progams cost."

Brenda Sue Johnston's answer to this was: "If the amount were truly based on the needs of poor people there would be more than two programs. Uptown and every poor area should have adequate programs for nutrition and health care. There would be no question about the renewal of funding, whatever the cost. Why should I be worried sick about my health and the health of my baby?"

Ms. Taif also said, "I don't think that every poor woman has a food problem. This has to be determined case by case. If you aren't getting enough food, talk to your caseworker."

Even though there are no more welfare allotments for more food stamps or money for pregnant women, there are allotments of approximately $13.00 per month on the check for a high protein diet. A person has to have their doctor fill out a welfare form stating that they need a high protein diet; Every person should get this form from their caseworker and should apply for this money.

However, continuing the welfare catch-22 cycle, the additional $13 income will also mean an increase in the cost of the food stamps. For Brenda Sue Johnston with just herself and her unborn child the

increase in the cost of her food stamps would be approximately $3.□

# *Fighting Carter's Welfare Plan*

(Chicago, Ill.) Billie Jean McCraw was expecting her usual ADC check at the currency exchange the middle of August. After it was three days late, she called her caseworker and was told that she and her family had been cut off. The caseworker said that she had mailed two letters telling Billie Jean that she was going to get cut off but since Billie Jean had not responded, the case was closed. Billie Jean could reapply. Billie Jean is still not sure why she was originally cut off. The caseworker said that they had moved without notifying the welfare office, but the McCraws have lived in the same place for four years.

The next day Billie Jean and her husband Doug went to the welfare office. It was a Wednesday, the same day their son suffered and injury. They needed emergency food stamps, an emergency medical card and money. Since it was an emergency, they were told to come back in five days instead of the usual two weeks. They were told that Billie Jean, Doug, and their son Stevie had to register with the WIN program and that Doug needed a form from his doctor stating he could not work.

After they all registered with WIN and brought in Doug's doctor's statement, they were told that Bilie Jean needed her own doctor's statement that she could not work either. She also needed a statement from Readi-Man (Daily Pay) about how much she had worked there and if they would rehire her. When the intake worker handed her the form, he said "Lightning will strike before we'll give you welfare. If you do get back on welfare, your check will be cut $120.00 per month because you were working. The State will fine you."

When Billie Jean brought in her doctor's statement and the Readi-Man form, she was told that Stevie needed to register with WIN and that they all needed to register with the Illinois State Employment Service. Billie Jean tried to explain to this new intake worker that her son had already registered with WIN just a few days before, but the worker didn't seem to think that was possible. "If he doesn't sign up with WIN, he will not be on the medical card, or on the grant, and you will have to re-apply for non-assistance food stamps because there will be someone living in your house who is not on the grant."

Billie Jean had her last return appointment the end of September when she had to bring in a letter from Senn High School about another one of her children. The secretary at Senn had said that she mailed in the form but the welfare intake worker said he never received it. She could not make it to the welfare office that day due to an illness.

**Billie Jean McCraw is still not sure why she was originally cut off.**

The next day, six people went with Billie Jean to the welfare office. The supervisor said that Billie Jean's case was closed because she was one day late. With the support of the people who had come with her, the group said "No, there is no way after all this hassle that you are going to deny her. We will just not let that happen."

The supervisor had to give in. Billie Jean had all the documentation she needed. She got an emergency medical card and food stamps for the month (which she had to pay for.) Around 10 days later she received her usual ADC check.

The People's Coalition to Stop Jimmy Carter's Welfare Proposal was recently formed to fight the welfare system. As one member described, "What I'm doing here is learning to depend on myself more and at the same time learning to work with other people on something which is of the most importance to us all. We go down to the welfare office together and we come to the classes to discuss what's happening and why it's happening. We talk about this Jimmy Carter welfare proposal because we want to be able to take some action against it to protect ourselves and what's ours."□

# UNEMPLOYMENT

## *Unemployment: Wait & Wait & Wait*

(Chicago, Ill.) As many of us know from our own experience, it is easy to become caught up in the red tape and insensitivity of the unemployment board when we attempt to claim unemployment compensation that is due to us.

Mery Romero worked at Wen Products. She was assigned to operate a machine that required heavy strain on her arms and shoulders. She asked her foreman to transfer her to another area of work, but he refused.

As a result of the strain, Mery began experiencing extreme pain in her upper arm and shoulder. She went to her doctor who advised her that she had a Sinovial Hernia in her left elbow which required immediate surgery and that she should cease work.

Mery is being denied her unemployment compensation by the unemployment board which states that her doctor's letter advising her to cease work, was a "document of convenience" and contradictory to a previous letter he had written, and that there was insufficient evidence that the work was unsuitable.

Mery has been out of work for five months now, with no money to pay for the required operation that would enable her to work again.

**Mery Romero: Denied compensation and unable to pay for the operation that would enable her to work again.**

Joe Delp received unemployment compensation for over a year. He was to receive three more checks

**Joe Delp: "If I could find a job earning $309 I'd stay with it and wouldn't need the benefits anyway."**

when he received a notice in the mail stating that he would not receive any more checks until he earned $309, at which time, he could reapply for benefits.

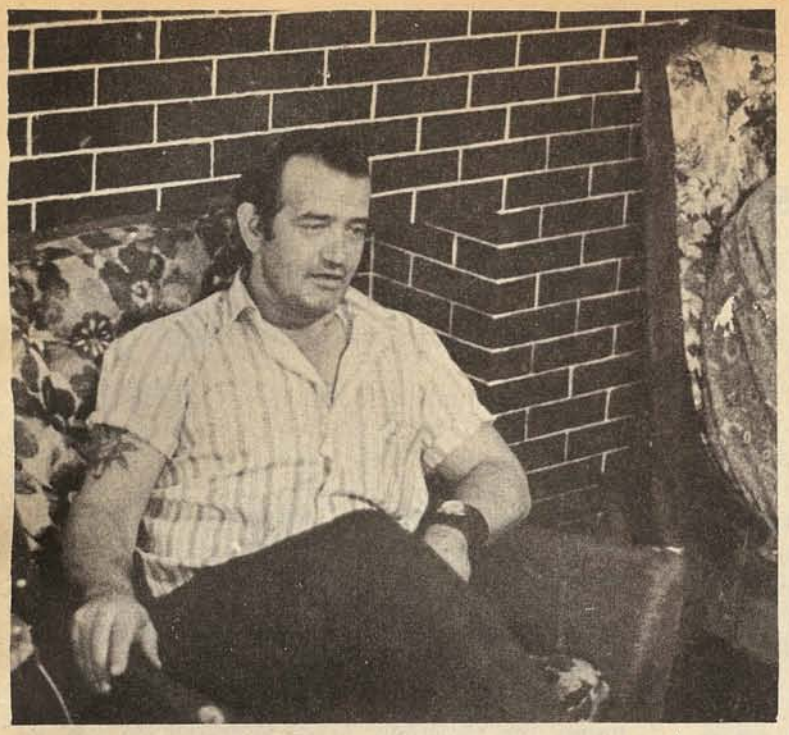
"Why did they stop my checks in the first place?" asks Mr. Delp. If I could find a job earning $309 I'd stay with it and wouldn't need the damn benefits anyway!"

"I went down to unemployment today and they said they'd send me my checks. That's what they said before. But then I had to go back again. I've got three checks coming. They're due to me. Why should I have to keep going back and standing in the unemployment line that's a mile long and wait and wait and wait to get it over with, why?"

In the meantime, both Mery Romero and Joe Delp are without these badly needed checks while the unemployment bureau continues to spin its red tape.□

## *For The Truck— $1500, For The Driver—None*

(Chicago, Ill.) Workman's compensation laws



**Jim Litzau: "It was either that or no job. And with a family to support, that was no choice at all."**

provide for benefits paid to workers injured on the job. The laws were passed only after decades of often violent struggle by workers throughout the country. The compensation plan provides limited benefits and was a compromise in the fight for safe conditions on the job. This year, Illinois cut back on the benefits available through compensation due to heavy influence of industry officials.

For years, Jim Litzau drove a truck to support himself and his family. He can handle most kinds of trucks and has driven both short and long haul routes in the city and across the country. Since 1974, however, he has not driven at all. On July 30 of that year, he was hauling for Temple Steel Company, transporting loads to a rail depot inside the company's property. As he approached the rail crossing to the unloading dock, another driver started shouting for him to stop—a train was heading into the crossing. There were no flagmen provided and no warning lights up. The train was heading into the crossing without any warning to drivers on the road. Jim tried every technique he had learned in 20 years to keep the truck off the path of that train. He almost made it when the train slammed into the rear of his steel truck.

"After that I really don't remember what happened exactly. I remember the truck was totaled and I was alive. My arm hurt bad and my back." The truck was destroyed by the train. Steel was scattered all over the area. Jim's arm was cut up badly. He was still in the cab. He was taken to the hospital and released the same day. Within a very short period of time, Temple Steel had advised him to sign papers releasing the railroad company from any responsibility in the accident. If he didn't sign, he understood that he would no longer have a job.

"The railroad gave the company a check for $1500 with their name and my name on it. They said it was for the damage to the truck." The company got Jim's release in return for the check and assured Jim he's have a job and that they would take care of the medical costs. "I didn't think I had any choice—it was either that or no job. And with a family to support, that was no choice at all." Mr. Litzau was never told it would have been illegal to fire him for filing a claim under the workman's compensation laws.

Later in the year, two things led Jim to finally file his claim for compensation: he lost his job and he began having serious trouble with his back which had never received proper medical attention. He went to a lawyer. The claim waited more than two years before it was considered by the Illinois Industrial Commission. Their ruling was that he was not disabled and denied him his claim. "The hearing was a joke. The company started off by denying the accident ever happened. And the Commission never let in any evidence of injuries to my back," Jim reported. "I kept sitting there thinking everything was all decided before we ever even walked in."

In October, Jim appealed the decision by himself. His lawyer wanted $50 just to send in the papers for the appeal. He will present additional medical evidence to support his claim. He has gotten a new lawyer and he may also try to sue the railroad company, who paid for damage to a truck and not to him even though he was driving.□

# TENANTS' RIGHTS

## *Astral Apartments: Scene Of Destruction*

(Brooklyn, N.Y.) A recent investigation of tenants' problems at the Astral Apartments, located on Franklin Street between India and Java, revealed lack of heat, broken windows, and leaky ceilings on the 6th floor of the building. A picture began to develop of an area of Greenpoint that probably has been a target of the city's masterplan to destroy poor and working communities.

This area's boundaries are Manhattan Avenue on the east, West Street on the West, Greenpoint Avenue on the south, and Box Street on the north. It is known by many as the other end. Documented by interviews with community residents, many examples of the deterioration and destruction of the community were cited.

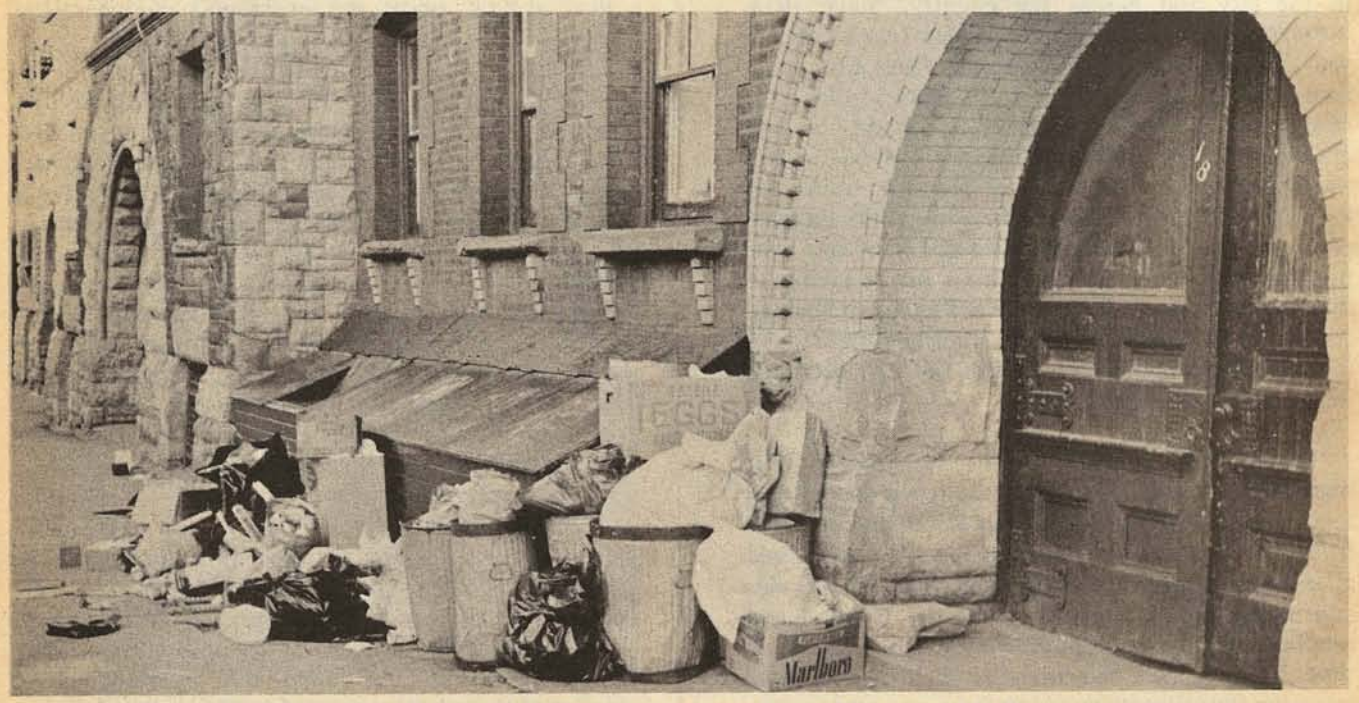
One young woman who had lived at the Astral until she was 13, described it this way: "Rent control was no longer in effect, but the owner couldn't just kick people out. he made living conditions hard and cut the services. The apartments weren't painted and holes in the walls weren't fixed. The garbage piled up wasn't taken care of either.

"Once the families who had lived there a long time moved out, the landlord shot the rents sky high, four times what they had been, because he knew that welfare would foot the bill and he'd never have to provide anything but four walls and a roof. At the same time, heroin became a bigger problem. Some junkies were living there, and many were shooting up on the roof. One brother died up there. Old people were forced out because of the danger."

Another woman who had moved into the Astral in August of 1975 and lived there over a year, described the apartment. "When I moved in, the plaster was peeling and falling; there were holes in the bedroom ceiling, broken windows in the bathroom and kitchen and there were no locks on the entrance or roof doors.

"I was fed up, and stopped paying rent. I went to Williamsburg Legal Services to try to get help. Although the building inspector came and took notes, the violations never appeared on official records anywhere. When I went to court, I still didn't know who the real owner was. I was ordered by the judge to pay my rent within 10 days and the management was ordered to make repairs. There was no agreement made on paper. They never made any repairs, so I finally moved."

Another resident described the change in the Astral. Born 56 years ago on Dupont Street, she described the change in that area. "I don't understand what the city is doing. When P.S. 31 on Eagle Street was closed, the city bought the surrounding homes on Eagle and Dupont Streets.




**Astral Apartments—part of the picture of deterioration and destruction in Greenpoint.**

They were going to put up a new school, but now its a playground. There is no new school for the children in that area and the houses have been abandoned for several years now. Meanwhile, the people who lived in those homes had been forced out."

Another man commented. "It was about 1950 when the first Puerto Rican family moved in. I believe they came from Puerto Rico. In the late 1960's and the 1970's, there were more Puerto Ricans moving in. They had been forced out of other parts of the city by 'urban renewal'. As this continued to happen, racial tension was high and in the summers of 1971 and 1972 there were some violent racial fights between Whites and Latinos. Naturally, it was the community that suffered, and the city who set it up laid back while the fighting was going on and did nothing to solve the problems.

"There was a lot of tension. But there were also families who worked hard to keep the housing fit. Both White and Puerto Rican. But they never got any cooperation either from landlords or the city. There was a lot of discouragement because of this."□

# *Conspiracy On Sunnyside Ave.*

(Chicago, Ill.) To a man like Rick Blain of Cragen Realty, a building like 1010 W. Sunnyside in a neighborhood which is slated for destruction, like Uptown, is a quick profit at the tip of his fingers. All he has to do is hold out until the time is right or the right developer comes along, then get rid of the tenants, dispose of the building and you're all set for a nice big dollar. One thing that can be counted on for sure is the cooperation of the city. The destruction of buildings like 1010 W. Sunnyside is in line with the city's overall masterplan for the area.

To tenants such as Cathy Hard and Danny Cox, buildings like 1010 Sunnyside are the only place where they can afford to live with their families. The conditions and problems which result produce one nightmare after another for the tenants. They can hold on as long as possible and then move to another building in just about the same shape.

The building at 1010 Sunnyside is located in the heart of the Broadway triangle. This is the area where phase 1 of the redevelopment plans have been taking place. It is the area being moved on by developers like Bill Thompson. In 1968 the particular land that 1010 Sunnyside stands on was designated as part of the land that would be taken by Truman College. Although this in particular did not occur no owner has put a dime into the building since then, as they have been waiting for the right moment. No repairs have been made since 1968.

A look at the particular conditions shows the following things: The building has been in court almost continuously since 1968, the most recent court file shows over 35 violations. These included 10 plumbing violations including improper drainage, stagnant water, broken pipes, broken toilets, etc....Other violations included mice, roaches, falling plaster, missing doors, broken windows, no place for refuge, a broken boiler, unsafe porches, etc. No action has ever really been taken by the city to force compliance on any of these violations.

**Many of the children living at 1010 W. Sunnyside have contracted shagella dysentery, a serious disease usually found only in areas where no plumbing facilities exist.**

When the owner, Mr. Blain, was contacted about these conditions, all he could say was, "Look it, I figure the best thing for this building is to get all the tenants out—one way or the other. Then I can really operate."

During the first week of October, eight-year-old Joy Hard suddenly became very ill, running a temperature which went as high as 106 degrees. She also had severe stomach cramps and diarrhea. She was rushed to the hospital where she soon went into a coma. She was diagnosed as having shagella dysentery. Shagella is a bacterial infection which attacks the intestines. It is usually common in areas

where no plumbing facilities exist but is rare in the U.S. Within a week four other children in the building came down with the disease. Columbus Hospital along with the people in the building contacted the Board of Health asking them to do something. They came to the building, looked around, and said to let them know if anyone else gets sick. They did nothing. More people did get sick. After the fifth person was hospitalized the owner was again contacted and informed of the situation. His response was, "That's their problem."

On October 17 the owner turned off the gas and told the people to leave. Most of the tenants had paid the rent on the 15th, making it impossible for anyone to leave. The tenants turned the gas back on themselves. On October 19, the Board of Health condemned the building and ordered it vacated immediately. At about 6 p.m. that evening the police came. They knocked on everyone's door and told them that, "You have 5 minutes to vacate your apartment. You can only take what you can carry." This came without warning and was the first action that the Board of Health had taken. No arrangements were made for the tenants relocation. No one was allowed to take any of their possessions with them. The police said they would guard the building until the Board of Health said they could return to get their belongings. A few days later the police left and the quarantine was lifted. But the tenants were not notified that the police were leaving. All of the apartments were soon ransacked.

On the night of October 28 the building at 1010 W. Sunnyside burned. The process was complete. The masterplan had one more success. The only people who lost were—once again—the tenants.□

# *Truman College Illegally Evicts Tenants From Racine St. Building*

(Chicago, Ill.) The 4500 block of Racine Street was once the site of several hundred units of housing. It was the home of families, young people, and senior citizens that lived on that block. Now, on one side of the block is Truman College; a huge vacant lot is on the other. There is only one building left standing there. The city and the college are moving the last of the people who live on Racine, so that they can get on with the demolition of the building—and the continued "progress" of the area.

Joe Bettison moved into 4550 N. Racine in August

**4550 Racine is the only building left on the block. Joe Bettison: "I feel that the owners knew about the demolition before I moved in and if I knew about it, I sure wouldn't have moved in."**

of this year. On September 5, he paid his rent. In the middle of September Joe went into the hospital. When he got home at the end of the month, he found a notice under his door saying he needed to move out by October 30. Even though his rent was paid till October 5, he was given no five day notice, court summons, or any other legal papers. Along with the notice was a message to see Mrs. McDonald at Truman College for help in finding another place to live. When asked about the college help in relocating, Joe said, "Mrs. McDonald sent me to apartments that dogs wouldn't live in."

Joe feels that the college and the city are responsible for deceiving him—and taking his money while knowing all along that the building was going to be torn down. "I feel that the owners knew about the demolition before I moved in and if I knew about it, I sure wouldn't have moved in."

Other facts support this conclusion. Although all the businesses in the building were given four to five months notice of the eviction, the tenants were not informed more than 30 days in advance. Peculiarly, October rent receipts were marked with the words, "no refund."

Joan Oliver has been living in Apt. 35 at 4550 since June 21, 1975. From the day she moved in, her kitchen sink has leaked all over the floor. The apartment was full of cockroaches and the building

was exterminated only once every six months. Every month for two and one half years Joan paid her rent on time. On Sept. 21 she paid a month's rent—and on Sept. 30 she got a notice that she had to be out by October 30.

"I had just paid my rent, paid several people back that I owed, and I had exactly $4 left. They sent me to 4520 N. Clarendon. That building was worse than this; there was no heat, and no water. I must have walked at least 50 miles, and spent three solid weeks trying to find a place. The slumlords are draining the people for everything they have."

It has been revealed that the current attempts to move people out of the building are being carried out illegally. While the evictions were not carried out in a proper legal fashion it has also been revealed that federal guidelines have been violated. Truman College, which bought the property, is receiving money from the federal government. There is a federal regulation that when property is bought that is occupied, the tenants must be given 90 days notice to move.

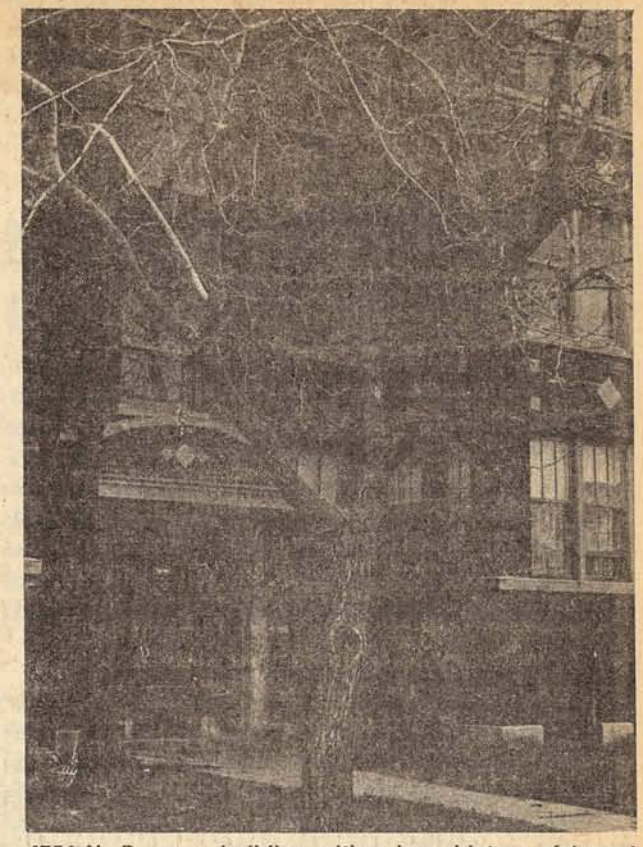
One former long-time resident of the building Richard Robinson said, "They want to get rid of all of us. If they shove us West or North we'll have to pay $220 a month for an apartment we can't afford to rent. They don't care about us. We don't have much of a choice but to stay in this community and fight here."□

# *Tenants Fight To Regain Building*

(Chicago, Ill.) Tenants at an Uptown apartment building with a long history of tenant control reacted strongly last month to a Housing Court decision to return the building to the landlord. Since the decision, the building conditions have quickly deteriorated and plans for new repairs have been dropped. Through much of October, there was no heat and no hot water in the building.

The building is located at the southwest corner of Lawrence and Dover (4754 North Dover Street) and it is owned by a Mr. Grawe. Grawe lost control of the building several months ago when tenants organized against his failure to maintain safe conditions at the building. A local community housing group was then appointed receiver by the Housing Court judge. The housing group was able to implement a basic repair plan to bring the apartments into decent shape.

According to one tenant, Verna Murray, "when the landlord got the building back, I knew it wouldn't be long before we'd have problems. Now



**4754 N. Dover, a building with a long history of tenant control. Conditions have quickly deteriorated since the building was returned to the landlord.**

there's no heat. The owner is a crazy old man. He's been writing notes trying to harrass me. My electricity went off the other night. I get scared some times, but I won't pay him the rent. It's the only pressure we have right now." Ms. Murray started withholding rent the second week that the owner got the building back because he refused to fix her refrigerator. The refrigerator has been draining on her kitchen floor for two months now.

Another tenant, Mrs. Rhettig, told of similar problems since the landlord returned. "Just the other day, he showed up at my apartment and demanded the rent. I told him he'd get it as soon as he put some work back into my apartment. When I turned my back he hit me across the head with his cane. That's the last time he'll do that and the last time I'll turn my back on him. And he better not expect any rent."

A number of tenants have demanded some action. Several are preparing for possible eviction actions by documenting the code violations which the owner has committed since taking back the building. Tenants also have discovered that the landlord must return to Housing Court for a progress report on November 4th. Both Ms. Murray and Mrs. Rhettig are intent on going to court this time to report what is going on now at the building. They will demand more tenant control, which so far has been the only solution to maintaining the building so it meets even the minimum safety level. "You bet I'll be there," Ms.

Rhettig said. "This time someone has to speak out about what this man has done to the building. If the judge doesn't know, then he will by the time this is over."□

# *City Eyes Magnolia St.*

(Chicago, Ill.) One of the small building owners from the 4400-4500 blocks of Magnolia St. in Chicago's Uptown community went downtown recently to apply for a building permit. The owner is one of those who has made a commitment to work together with tenants to continue to maintain and develop low income, decent family housing in the neighborhood. Applying for the building permit was a routine practice before beginning repairs on his building.

At the building department, however, the owner, accompanied by a representative of the Uptown Tenants Survival Union, was told that his application would have to be approved by the Department of Urban Renewal. When asked why DUR had to approve the building permit application he was told, "Because since your building is in an urban renewal area, the city might want to buy it and if repairs are made then the value of the building will go up and it will cost the city more to buy it."

This is the first time that any resident building owner or tenant has been informed that their two blocks on Magnolia have been designated an urban renewal area. There is no public record which indicates that these two blocks of large family housing are even under consideration by DUR. In fact, only a few years ago community residents participated in negotiations with the college and DUR where an agreement was reached that the city, having taken over 1200 units of family housing for the city college, would not touch Magnolia Street.

The Department of Urban Renewal does not have a functioning advisory council representing the community in this area, as required by law. Also, the 46th ward does not even have an alderman since Christopher Cohen resigned and the city council refused to hold a special election. Evidently the boys downtown thought they could do anything they wanted.

Concerned building owners are now caught in a trap. They cannot get building permits to improve their buildings. They cannot sell their buildings because no one will buy them as the threat of city acquisition in the future means the buildings will be taken away at next to nothing. They are left watching their buildings deteriorate until the city is ready to buy them out.

The hardest hit victims would of course be the tenants, many of whom have been moved seven, eight and ten times in the last eight or nine years. For them it will be one more link in the chain of broken promises and destroyed communities.

It does not appear this time, however, that the city will have an easy time. According to the building owners they are organizing, and a strong, fighting tenants union already exists in many buildings in the two block area. "We are ready for them this time," said one member of the tenants union. "We have organization, too much experience, legal strategies and lawyers. Most of all, we have unity and anger. We are going to be here on Magnolia Street until Michigan Ave. floats out into the lake and sinks."□

**Concerned building owners on Magnolia Street are unable to get building permits from the city to make improvements on their buildings.**

# POLICE WATCH

## What Price Juvenile Justice?

A fifteen-year-old boy from a white working family is suspected of killing a known mobster. He has gotten hooked up with a group of men who threaten his life if he does not do as they say. More scared of the police than the thugs, the boy did as he was told. Suspecting the boy, Kojak rants and raves but cannot get copies of the boy's juvenile record. The boy is missing school and is rarely home. He is brought before a juvenile judge. The judge is also unable to use the boy's juvenile record in passing sentence and releases him in the care of his parents. This uncommon story draws a hard moral: change the laws protecting juveniles; too many of them are criminals and belong in jail; society and not children need protection of the law.

In Chicago, a warm evening in June, 1977, Johnny Neuman is in an alley not far from his home. He is trying to get into a friend's garage to get **his** minibike out. He sold the bike to his friend but never got paid for it. The police arrive. They handcuff the 18-year-old youth. He gets scared and runs down the alley. The police shoot, although the boy is unarmed and handcuffed.

Northwestern Hospital, one hour later. Johnny Neumann lies bleeding to death. Very soon he will be dead, a severe gunshot wound in his back compounded by loss of nine pints of blood. The transfusion was never made, even several hours later.

October 20, 1977, also Chicago. A 14-year-old boy is standing with two friends by a lampost about 20 feet away from the Hospitality Barber Shop at 6303 S. Greenwood. A squad car drives by. The two policemen with guns drawn jump out of their car and pull the boys over to the barber shop where they line them up, hands over their heads against the wall of the barber shop. Minutes later Tyrone Neal will be critically wounded by a gunshot wound in his head.

Mrs. Lola Goldsmith watched the shooting from her sun porch about 50 yards away. She said the policemen worked their way down the line-up frisking the boys one by one as patrolman Frederic Everly held a gun to each suspect's head as his partner frisked them. When they got to Tyrone Neal a shot rang out. Tyrone was struck in the head by the police bullet.

"I didn't see anybody do anything to make that officer shoot," said Sultan Mahmud, the owner of the barber shop, who witnessed the entire series of events.

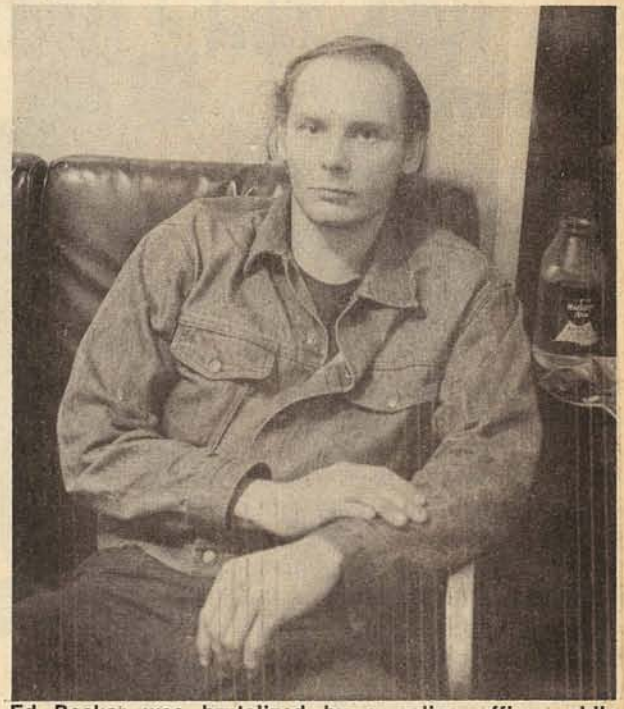
What price will we pay for not protecting the rights of juveniles? The life of Johnny Neuman, the life of Tyrone Neal, the lives of hundreds of others?□

## If The Police Don't Get You...

(Chicago, Ill.) Every so often a spectacular crime occurs which more than one person witnessed but did nothing about. This becomes the subject of news reports and editorial debates. The question usually asked at these moments is the same: Where does such indifference to human suffering come from? The case may be that people "don't want to get involved" because of their fear of police reaction.

Earlier this summer, Ed Becker, who lives at 4353 N. Kenmore Ave., noticed that smoke was coming from an apartment downstairs. He pushed his way into the apartment, noticed his neighbor lying unconscious, and proceeded to put out the small blaze he saw nearby. When his neighbor came to he pushed Ed away and said he didn't need any help.

As Ed left he was angry at his neighbor's attitude. He returned to his apartment. At that time the police and paramedics were just arriving. Hearing Ed, a policeman asked him what was going on. Ed said,



**Ed Becker was brutalized by a police officer while handcuffed: "To cover themselves, I wound up with charges of resisting arrest and trying to hit a policeman. I may have been mad, but I wasn't stupid."**

"Forget it," enraging the officer who followed him to his apartment and arrested him for disorderly conduct.

"When they arrested me, I couldn't believe it. Next thing I knew the cop started using his flashlight on me while I was cuffed. Then I got dragged down three flights of stairs and shoved into a paddy wagon," Ed reported in a later interview. He suffered bruised ribs and a broken arm. "To cover themselves, I wound up with charges of resisting arrest and trying to hit a policeman. I may have been mad, but I wasn't stupid."

Meanwhile, in an incident earlier this year, Mr. Jenkins was on his way home with his five-year-old daughter. When they reached the "L" platform at Broadway and Wilson a man was lying apparently unconscious. Jenkins bent down to see what the problem was. The man was still breathing but was not conscious. Mr. Jenkins reached into his pocket to see if he had a wallet with some identification. Within moments he was surrounded by police and arrested for theft. The man on the ground got up and walked away. He had been a decoy. Mr. Jenkins was convicted and received a 9 month sentence. He served the first six months of this sentence waiting for his trial because he could not afford bail.□

# Armitage & Kimball: Police At War With The Community

Recent reports from community members in the Armitage-Kimball area indicate that the neighborhood may well be targeted for destruction as part of the city's overall economic development plan. The key indicator has been a high increase in the amount of police harrassment and surveillance in the area. Residents feel that people are getting stopped more often "for nothing." Reports of police brutality cases are now coming in regularly. As put by one long-time resident in the neighborhood, "The police around here seem to be getting ready for a war. But there's nobody to go to war with except us."

The source for the increase in the police activity is the Shakespeare Street police station. Shakespeare police were recently the subject of an intensive internal investigation which resulted in the suspension of five police officers for selling heroin. In addition to dealing heroin, other officers have been investigated for operating a "chop-shop auto theft ring." Finally, several reports of police beatings have been received, especially over this past summer.

**Larry Marsenkowski, falsely arrested and beat up by the police: "If they just throw these charges out, they might have to explain the 62 stitches in my head."**

One of the most serious brutality cases involved Larry Marsenkowski, who lives near Monticello Park, a local hang-out for youth. On the night of October 7, Larry was with friends at the corner of Armitage and Monticello Streets. A squad car pulled up behind them and called Larry over. As he came close to the car, one of the officers said, "That's Wolf all right," and jumped out of the car. Larry started to move back, but was grabbed. "Something happened, then this one dude, officer Torres I think, cracked me in the back of the head with his flashlight—you know, the long heavy ones they carry. I went down and started bleeding bad. Then he just kept hitting me in the head. Once or twice, I tried to protect myself but I nearly went unconscious." Paul Walden, a friend of Larry's, grabbed the officer's arm at one point to stop the beating. "I told him he was going to kill him if he kept hitting," Paul said. "Then they just tossed Larry in the car and took off." He was later charged with attempted robbery.

Doctors used 62 stitches to close the cut in Larry's head. He was released the next morning on an "I" Bond. An investigation of the charges indicate the arrest may have been a set-up from the beginning. The store was not robbed and workers at the store called in no complaint. Larry was with friends the whole evening. Yet, the squad car reported that they had responded to a complaint from the store.

Even with the lack of evidence, Larry is realistic about what can happen in court. "Look," he commented, "if they just throw these charges out, then they might have to explain the 62 stitches in my head." He expects the judge to be unwilling to listen to the facts, especially since, "It's me against two policemen." Larry had considered a civil rights suit, but he intends to wait until all the criminal charges are over. The case is expected to be resolved at the next court hearing.□

# Camp Pendleton 14 Frame-ups Continue

(San Diego, Calif.) As only one trial remains in the Pendleton 14 case here, defense attorneys charge that the Marine Corps is responsible for framing the defendants to cover-up their own failure to respond to terrorism by the Ku Klux Klan on the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps base.

Defense attorneys and supporters of the Pendleton 14 legal defense further contend that the Marine Corps is responsible for the November 13, 1976 incident from which this case stems. On that date, 13 Black marines allegedly attacked several White marines who they suspected of holding a KKK meeting, which was actually being held in an adjacent room.

Racial strife had reached the breaking point due to the Marine Corps' refusal to discipline Klan members. Despite the Marine Corps' claim that they knew nothing of KKK activity on Camp Pendleton, a 700-page report by the Naval Investigative Service (NIS) detailed over 200 instances where Klan members were allowed to abuse Black marines verbally and physically.

Bobby Bishop, the only Pendleton defendant still awaiting trial, is expected to begin his court-martial some time in November. Of the others, only Glen White has been acquitted. Two defendants pleaded not guilty, (Eddie Page and Clarence Capers)—and both were convicted. The others have pleaded guilty after agreements were made that they would receive "lighter" sentences—most of which have included damaging dishonorable discharges—rather than face confinement ranging up to 72 years in a military prison.

The most recent trial of the Pendleton 14 took place October 17. Sergeant William Spencer, in whose room Black marines met last November 13 to discuss the Klan, was considered one of the "heavy" cases by the Marine Corps, according to a press statement released by the Pendleton Legal Defense.

In spite of the Marine Corps' judges, defense attorneys have been able to present limited evidence about the extent of Klan activity and the failure of the command to halt its growth. Arthur Blacketer, a former member, testified about a Klan "assault team" that set fire to a van belonging to a Black resident of nearby Oceanside. Other testimony described cross-burnings on base and the Klan's initiation rites. Testimony was also heard that this activity had been reported by one Sergeant Major to his superiors but that no action was taken. □

# EDUCATION

# *Chicago Reading Scores Another Disappointment*

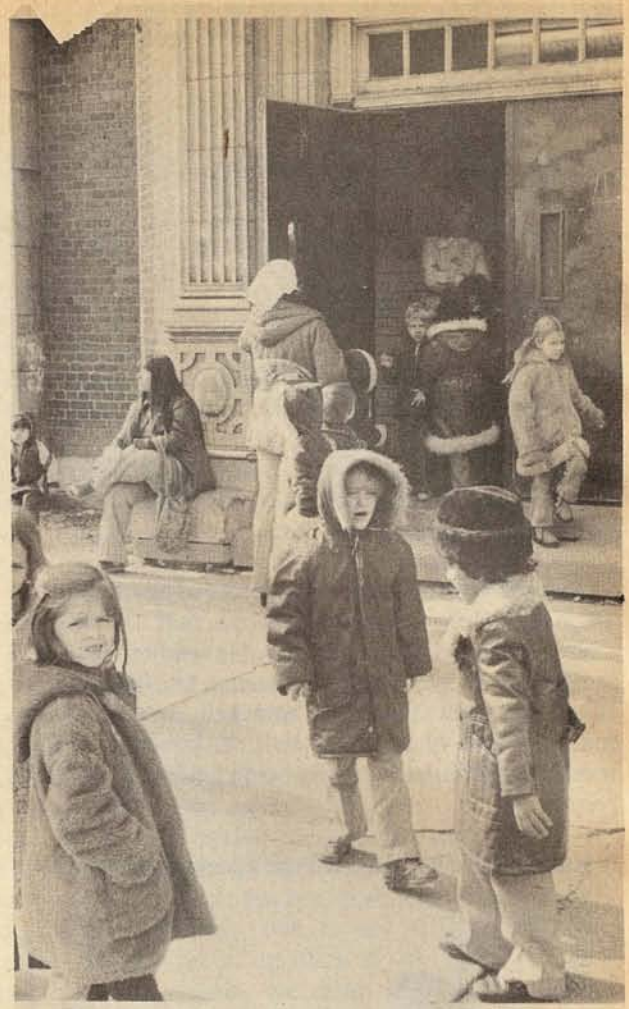
(Chicago, Ill.) Banner headlines late last month lauded the latest reading scores of Chicago's school children while the Board of Education patted themselves on the back. Amidst all the fanfare, the truth is that the average reading abilities in the Chicago public schools improved less than half as much in the last school year (1976-1977) as they did the year before, according to the new test results.

The test score results show improvements in only three of the seven age levels tested during the school year that ended in June. As in the past, the scores also show that the longer students stay in the city's public school system, the more they fall behind the averages for reading abilities. Chicago students in the second grade score at the national average and then start to fall behind quickly. By the fifth grade, the average Chicago pupil is a year behind the national level and two years behind by the eighth grade.

George Schmidt, of SUBS, a progressive organization of substitute teachers said he feels that learning how to read depends largely on staff time for teaching. The schools, he points out, have only just filled all teaching positions in the schools. "By the eighth week of school these positions were just being filled meaning that the students will have spent 29% of their year in school with either no teachers or oversized classrooms." In September, Hannon announced layoffs of 1000 teachers and full-time basis substitute teachers.

Some of the schools, Schmidt points out, have expensive and sophisticated equipment to teach reading. But without staff to work with the students the equipment is useless. In most schools this staff does not exist. "Since teachers have to teach to the majority of their class, those students who are behind in one way or another will continue to fall behind unless there is someone to work with them. Now there is no one," said Schmidt.

Although there are supposedly special reading programs in many schools, the reality is often different. With a decrease in the availability of substitute teachers, school principals are often forced to pull teachers assigned to reading and other programs to cover for classes when the regular teacher is absent, or a class is not otherwise covered.



**Latest reading score results for Chicago school children show the public schools improved less than half as much in the last school year as they did the year before.**

Lower reading scores have been shown to correspond consistently to those schools that are overcrowded. "If a map were to be drawn where all the lowest 20% of the reading scores occur in Chicago and put over a map of the city's schools, you would see that they correspond almost identically," explained George Schmidt. The same severely overcrowded schools that border Marquette Park have the worst reading scores in the city. "In these schools the kids have to spend half their time dealing with the physical environment of the school before they can do anything about their school work," he added.

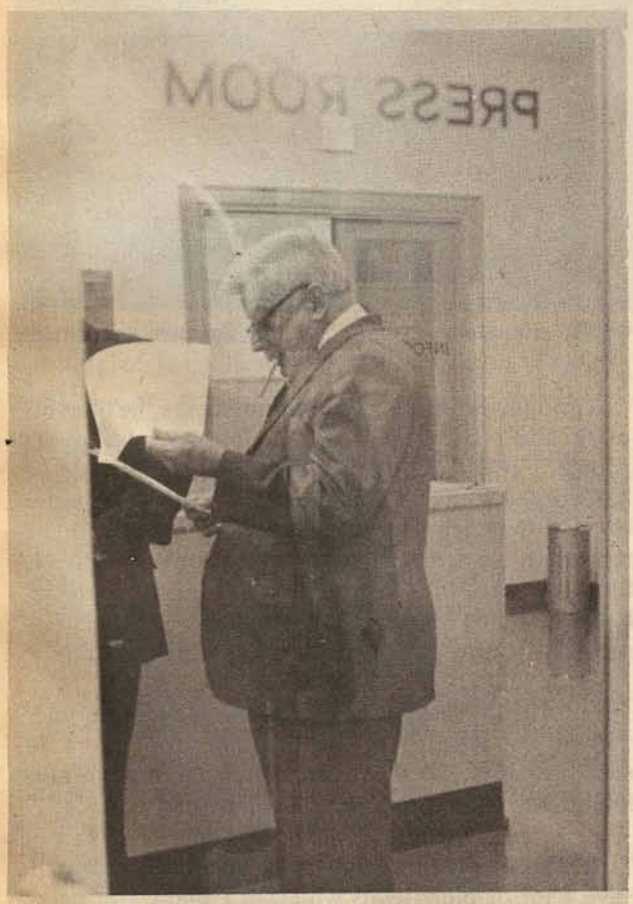
Meanwhile, last June the Chicago Board of Education set a new policy for graduation of students from eighth grade and from high school in two of the city's school districts. If students do not read at their grade level, the policy states, they cannot be graduated. This policy has raised concern among parents and teachers who feel that the school board has not taken proper steps to make it possible for the majority of affected students to pass. It is expected that soon this will be the policy for all districts in the school system.□

# HEALTH NEWS

## *Murray Brown Throws Away $3 Million*

(Chicago, Ill.) Early this year the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation announced it had $15 million available for five of the 50 largest cities. The funds were to be awarded to cities that have two legislative bodies responsible for administering health services. The idea was to fund better cooperation between these agencies. The money was to be used for health services in poor communities.

Unfortunately, political differences between the Board of Health, which is administered by Dr. Murray Brown under the auspices of the City of Chicago, and the Cook County Health and Governing Commission, responsible to the city and whose director is Dr. James Haughton, put the three million dollars that Chicago would have received out of its reach.




**Dr. Murray Brown, director of Chicago's Board of Health refused to apply for funds that would have brought a minimum of $3 million to Chicago for health services.**

Dr. Brown refused to send a letter announcing the intent of the city and the county to work together to develop a proposal for these funds by last March 31.

Dr. Haughton reported that he had been told by city officials that it was "politically impossible" for the Board of Health to join Cook County Hospital in the required joint statement of intent. "Once we got the grant for $3 million from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation we could have gotten matching funds and increased that amount to 6 or 9 million dollars that could be used for health care in Chicago," Haughton said.

Meanwhile, in a private meeting with representatives from Uptown organizations which have been diligently urging the County to establish a comprehensive family health clinic with a special facility for black lung in their community, Haughton agreed to the new clinic. After inital investigation by the county, a timetable will be drawn up.

Haughton agreed to meet with Murray Brown who in the past opposed a clinic claiming that there is "too much health care in Uptown." Following a series of canvasses and a health fair, statistics showed the real health situation in this northside community, including the existence of many forms of dysentery. Haughton agreed that the group had shown that Uptown was indeed not overserved in the area of health services. He said that whatever Brown's response, the county would go ahead with the clinic.□

# CONSUMER WATCH

## *Utilities Ignore People's Rights As They Speed Up Shutoffs*

(Chicago, Ill.) With a bitter cold winter predicted again by the U.S. Weather Bureau for the midwest and northeast parts of the country, gas and electric companies have been rapidly increasing the number of disconnections in many oppressed and poor communities. The rising number of shutoffs is seen as a plan to force big payments by low-income customers before the extremely cold weather sets in.

Last winter, many utility companies were ordered to stop shutting off service in midwinter because of the threat to people's health and safety. The order in Illinois came through the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) which is directed to regulate all utilities in the state. The ICC acted only after the reports of several deaths due to lost utility service.

In Chicago, community residents have reported greater demands by People's Gas Co. and Commonwealth Edison both for deposits and for full payment of even small back bills. Shutoffs have been routine when the company's demands were not met. The companies have failed to inform customers of their rights which would give them a chance to keep heat and lights on in their buildings.

Community legal workers advise anyone facing a utility shutoff to "dispute" their bill by filing a complaint with the company and a copy with the ICC. Under certain regulations, the company cannot cut off service until a proper investigation is made. The ICC orders also provide the customer with the right to set up a reasonable payment plan, and to correct mistakes made by the company. A sample copy of a "dispute" letter and complaint is shown below.□

TO: COMMONWEALTH EDISON
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

DATE: NOVEMBER 1, 1977

FROM: YOUR NAME
ADDRESS
ACCOUNT NUMBER

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to inform you that I am disputing the recent and/or shut off notice sent to me by your company. I do not agree with it for the following reasons:

( DESCRIBE THE PROBLEMS WITH THE UTILITY)

I request a full investigation of the problem as soon as possible.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Illinois Commerce Commission. If I do not agree with the answers to my questions, I intend to file a request for a hearing with the Commission as soon as possible. Under the General Orders of the Commission you cannot shutoff my service until this matter is resolved.

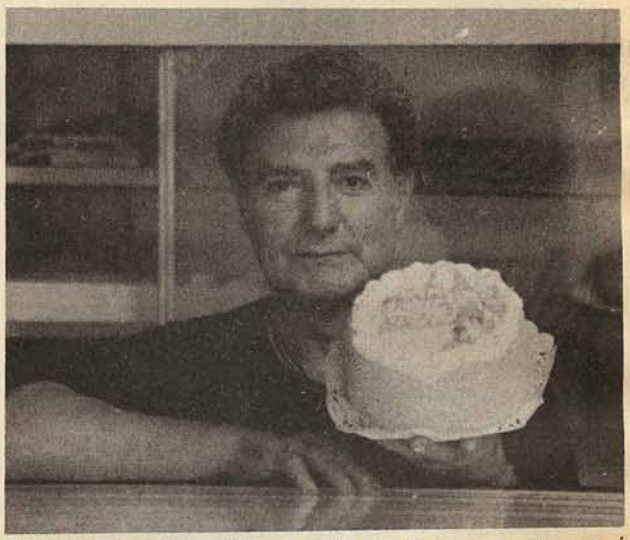
Signed,

Your Name

# FRIENDS OF THE COMMUNITY

## *Small Businessman Stitched With The Community*

(Chicago, Ill.) Barney Bernstein has run his small bakery in the Uptown community one place or another for the last 25 years. Following the movement of the many fires and destruction of the neighborhood Barney was burned out of his last location at Broadway and Wilson, about six months ago.



**Barney Bernstein: "I have faith in Uptown and all its people."**

Although Barney is past retirement age, he likes his work and "still has faith in Uptown and all its people." It is this desire to be among the people he has worked with and lived among for the last quarter century that brought Barney back. Last month he reopened his store in a new location at 4950 N. Sheridan Rd. with a complete line and variety of bakery goods including sugar-free pastry. His specialty is birthday cakes baked freshly each day.

"I turned 65 last year and retired. Now I can only make $3000 a year. It's the same way for others on social security. So that's who helps me here. I also like to help out young people whenever I can.

"I want people to know I am back in Uptown. I have a lot of old friends who don't know I'm here. Some of the people from the old part of the neighborhood have found me but there are still a lot of people who don't know."□

# BLACK LUNG

## *Houston Atkins Wins Black Lung Claim*

(Chicago, Ill.) "I want you to know that when the coal operator finally pays me my money, I'm not leaving the Black Lung Association. You'll see me there at every meeting helping to fight for the rest of us." These words were spoken by Houston Atkins and they set the tone of determination and unity that marked the well-attended October membership meeting of the Chicago Area Black Lung Association.

**Houston Atkins: "I want you to know when the coal operator finally pays me my money, I'm not leaving the Black Lung Association. You'll see me at every meeting helping to fight for the rest of us."**

Atkins, a veteran of 40 years in the coal mines in West Virginia, had been a victim not only of black lung disease but of some of the Department of Labor's worst bureaucratic tricks. After a battle that began in 1975 when he applied for benefits, Houston Atkins won a favorable determination on his claim under the extremely restrictive Department of Labor program which covers claims filed since July 1, 1973. Since the DOL program gives the coal operator, who is supposed to pay the benefits, the right to appeal, Mr. Atkins may now have to fight the operator as well. However, in the meantime, the government can be made to begin paying benefits.

The extremely hard won nature of this victory is exemplified by the fact that only 200 miners out of 100,000 who have filed claims since 1973 are now receiving benefits. "This statistic," says CABLA Chairman Lawrence Zornes, "shows what we have been saying all along. The Department of Labor has used numerous rules and regulations to twist around and make meaningless the actual law."

Spokespersons for CABLA say that while the victory won in Houston Atkins' case can be used to help others, that a strong black lung bill must be passed to correct the abuses of the program if there is to be hope for most black lung victims who are still without benefits.

They point to the status of the reform bill that would end the 1981 cut-off for black lung benefits that is currently being hashed out by the U.S. Congress. Last month both the House and the Senate voted for reform bills. But since they were not the same, differences between the two have to be resolved before any bill becomes law.

Supporters of the bills fear that language in the Senate bill puts the legislation in danger of being defeated. According to both versions of the bill a trust fund must be established which would finance all future black lung benefits. The House bill would use a premium or assessment on coal tonnage (which would be paid by the coal operator) to finance the trust fund. The Senate bill calls for a tax on the sale of coal. Because it is called a tax, critics fear that a whole new tax law may have to be passed in order to set the fund up. This, they say, could create an unnecessarily complicated situation and that the interests of black lung victims would once again be put on the back burner.

The Chicago Area Black Lung Association urges all citizens in the Chicago area to write to Congressman Rostenkowski (D. Chi.), who is on the committee responsible to resolve this difference, urging him to support the language on funding contained in the House version of the bill. □

# *Switchcraft, Inc.: In Need Of A Union*

(Chicago, Ill.) Switchcraft, Inc., is a local plant, located on N. Elston Ave. in Chicago. Like so many others, it employs people at low wages and makes a high profit. There is no union, which makes it easy for the company to take advantage of the workers. The thing that makes Switchcraft different is that many of the workers there have decided that they've had enough.

Marlene Salinas is one of those workers, and here in her own words she describes what some of the conditions are like and what they are doing to change them.

"The company doesn't offer anything. The boss can just discriminate if he doesn't like someone. My boss didn't like one lady and he never asked her to work overtime. He'd ask the lady on the first machine and the one on the third, but not the one on the second. That made it much harder on everyone and twice as much work for her when she came in the morning.

"One time they sent a handbill around saying that you had to wear these white linen gloves. The secretary came around and you had to sign a paper saying that you got that handbill. When you work on a machine, you're moving your fingers and handling material and the gloves stretch. On one operation you have to turn the part upside down and you got burr side up. If you try and handle that kind of material with those gloves, you have more chance of getting your hand caught.

"About a week later, an older fellow who worked with us cut his finger on a piece of material and he went to the nurse's office. The boss didn't like him and never asked him to work overtime or anything. Right after him, the parts man cut his finger and and he went to the office also. In the meantime, the boss called the personnel office and said a man was just hurt on the job and wasn't wearing gloves. Well, neither was the parts man, but the boss liked him. So the personnel lady went in the nurse's office and said to the older man, 'You got an automatic three day layoff.' The other one just walked right back in the department.

"There is no job seniority there, and no job security at all. They don't have any insurance. My girlfriend has four children and she pays $9 a week for insurance. If one of them goes in the hospital the insurance company pays $30 a week. You can't get a hospital bed for less than $150 a **day!** The company you're working for should pay insurance, but they won't do it.

**Marlene Salinas**

"If the boss doesn't like someone, they can just lay them off and hire someone else. A friend of mine is a die setter. Die setters pay is $4.40 an hour. They started him at $3.50, then gave him his 90 cents raise. After a week and a half they put him down to $3.50 again and made him a punch press operator and hired someone else as a die setter. There was no reason for that and he couldn't do anything about it.

"At the time we didn't even know of a union. We formed a committee and began signing a petition to see who in the plant wanted one. Then we presented it to this union, the IBEW, and said, "These people want a union; represent us."

"I got fired on September 13. I was a punch press operator, and at 5 minutes to 4:00 you punch out from your machine, and then you have 5 minutes wash-up time. (That's not company time, that's my time.) Then at 4:00 you punch out for the day. At 5 minutes to 4:00, I was talking to this guy about the union and my boss came over and said, 'Come with

me.' The guy had just signed a petition and I had it in my pocket. I had to walk to the front office and see Mr. Gizo (he works in personnel). My boss told him, 'She was doing union work during company time.' Mr. Gizo said, 'Well we do not cater to something like that, you'll just have to leave.' He waved his hand and that was it. On my way out, I went and saw one of the ones on the committee and gave her the petition in case they would try to get it from me. Then I punched out and went home. That night the committee came to my house and we had a meeting and decided to put a handbill out explaining how I got fired. The union decided to go with me to the labor board. I got fired on a Thursday and the following Monday I went to the labor board to file a petition. Right now I'm waiting for word on when my hearing is going to be. If I win, I will get my job back and the company will have to pay me for all the time I'm not working.

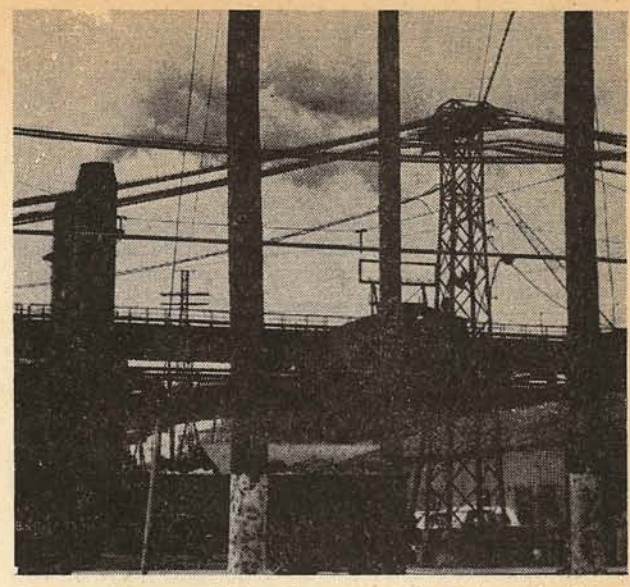
"In the meantime, I've been working with the union. I still go out there every day to tell people about the union and there's a petition going around to rehire me.

"The union's attorney wrote a letter to the company to have them recognize this union as being in there and having activities and not to fire anyone else unless they want to answer charges against them. Because we have enough people that have signed union cards now, to have the company know about it and what the name of the union is. If a factory ever needed a union, this one does."□

# *Steel Layoffs Devastate Ohio Community*

(Youngstown, Ohio) Mid-September, Youngstown Steel and Tube Co., the nation's eighth largest steel producer, announced its intentions to close down its Campbell Works mill, leaving 5500 workers without jobs. As KEEP STRONG goes to press, 2000-2500 of these workers have already been laid off with the balance of the layoffs expected by November 12, according to United Steel Workers of America Local 1462 President Ed Mann.

The company's decision to close its operations, which have been headquartered in Youngstown for 77 years, is expected to affect upwards of 13,000 other jobs in the area. Youngstown is a basic steel community, and the closing of the Campbell Works severely affects the economic stability of the city. More than $4.75 million in personal property taxes will be lost, part of which account for 70% of the school budget for the town of Campbell.



**Steelworkers in Ohio disagree with Union President McBride who justifies the current trend of the steel industry to close down major operations because of imports.**

Following the announcement of the closing, union locals in the area collected 116,000 signatures in two days demanding that Carter take immediate action to save jobs. With these petitions in hand five bus loads of steelworkers arrived in Washington. Their intention: to get the message out and to get the attention of the people in Washington.

While this demonstration was a success, the day to day problems in Youngstown are now the immediate concern of union president Mann. The union local has called for a district conference to be held as soon as possible but as yet has not heard anything. They feel they are receiving no direction from the union and take issue with Steelworker president McBride who has put the blame for the layoffs on increased imports of steel. "It's not a question of imports," Mann says, "but a question of a lazy industry that didn't keep up with the times."

"We're trying to take care of the day to day problems, plus we're also proposing that there be community-worker ownership of the plant. If the industries can't operate profitably perhaps it is time for nationalization. We know it can be operated profitably. It just depends what you mean by profitably. Profitably some people have jobs, and profitably some people make a lot of money and others are starving."

On November 16, the local union will be holding its own meeting at which time they will draw up resolutions to be presented to the basic steel conference planned for December. Resolutions will deal with a shorter work weel, transfer of pensions from one company to the next and job security.□

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## San Francisco RAP: The City's Neutron Bomb

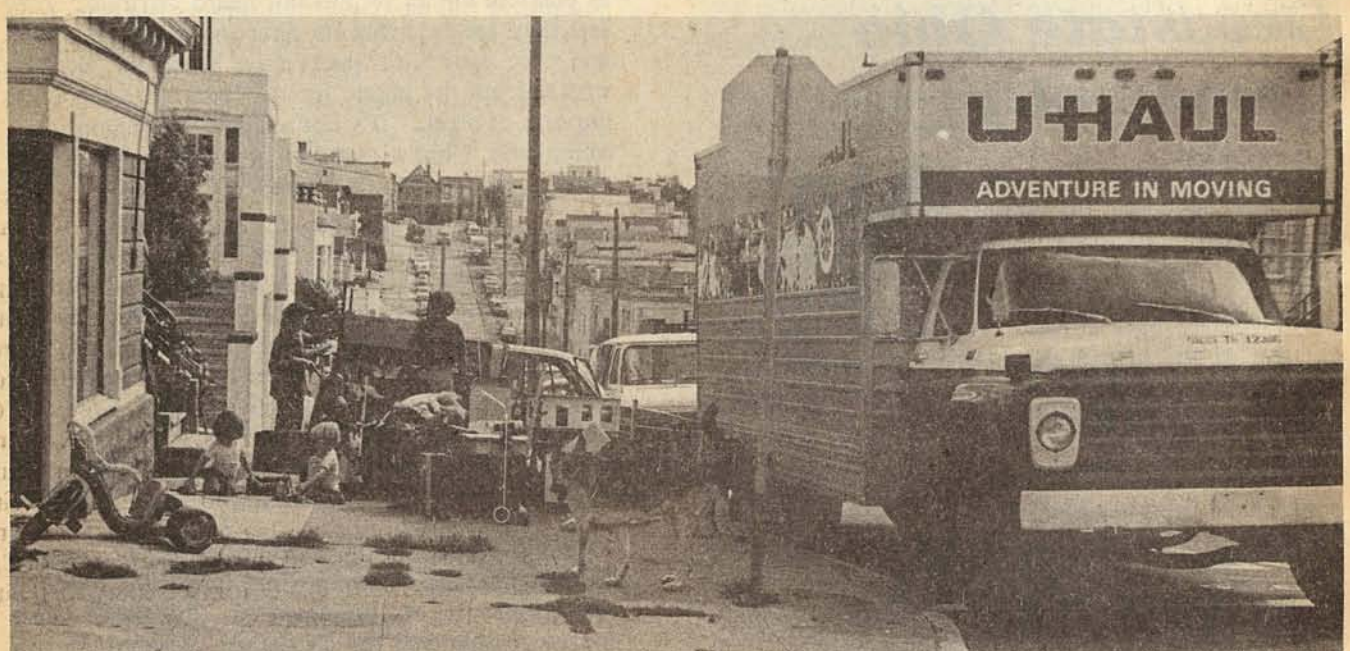
(San Francisco, Calif.) It was moving day recently for Larry and Carol Jennings and their two small children. "We can't afford to live here anymore," Larry explained. "We're moving out of San Francisco altogether. I'm a welder and my wife is a teacher but we can't get steady work. I can't break into the union. Our landlady just sold our building and the new landlord is jacking our rent up from $250 to $335 a month. She bought the building two years ago for $40,000 and sold it for $69,000. Four years ago it went for $20,000. And it's a hole. Bare electrical wires, holes in the walls, all she did was paint the outside. At the most she put in $1,000 and got our $19,000. A lot of our friends have been forced out like this too."

Once acclaimed as a community "anyone could live in," the Haight-Ashbury neighborhood of San Francisco is becoming known as the community any real estate investor can rip-off. Residents have become increasingly alarmed at the sky rocketing rents and fancy commercialization of the Haight St. business area. For many, Haight-Ashbury was the place they moved after being forced from other neighborhoods because of high rents or outright demolition.

In a recent interview with Anna Darden of the Haight-Ashbury Neighborhood Council, she charged that the city's RAP program (Rehabilitation Assistance Program) is what actually began the intensive speculation in the area. "The announcement alone of Upper Ashbury being designated a RAP area in 1973 was enough to begin an intensive 6 month speculation. The program has only been implemented since April of this year but it was announced in July of 1973. After it was announced there was three times as many buildings sold for double the price after July than before. Since that time speculation has gone on throughout the entire area."

The controversial RAP program has been assailed across the city by community leaders for doing the exact opposite of its intended purpose. On paper the RAP program is supposed to bring about 95% of the buildings in a designated area up to code within 5 years. The program sends out teams of inspectors who inspect the buildings and if code violations are found, the owner is required to do the necessary repairs. Through the program, low-interest loans are available to make it easier for building owners to afford the repairs. The RAP program is administered by San Francisco's Bureau of Building Inspection (BBI), and is funded with federal community development funds.

Critics of the program point out that what's on paper and how it really works are two different stories. They charge that the program works to force out low and moderate income people and turn areas into upper income communities. One Haight resident




**Moving day in the Haight-Ashbury. Residents complain that hundreds are being forced out by city-sponsored real estate speculation.**

called RAP, "the city's neutron bomb—it drives poor people out but leaves the buildings available!"

Other criticisms include:

* Tenant protection in the program is vague, undefined, and unenforceable.
* In multi-unit buildings, the owner is guaranteed the same rate of profits so costs are passed onto the tenants in higher rents thus forcing out many tenants.
* Loans are not available to all but the program is mandatory. Therefore many low-income owners of small buildings are forced to sell out because they can't afford to make the repairs. The only ones who can afford to buy are the big guys.
* Investors will flock to a RAP area to take advantage of the low interest loans, slap a coat paint on and some fancy lights and then sell the building at enormous profits and quickly pay the loan, thus ending any obligation to keep rents reasonable. The next ownwer will be forced to raise rents because his mortgage is higher.
* Once speculation begins in an area it quickly spreads and forces rents and housing prices ridiculously high, thus driving out low and moderate income families.

Community groups have filed suit seeking an injunction against the RAP program. The basis of the suit is "an inadequate environmental impact report" which the plaintiffs allege underestimated the accompanying speculation by 90% of what has actually happened.

Without a doubt the situation in the Haight has become critical. One woman told of how she recently received in the mail a rental agreement from her management company that wanted $100 deposit on every pet she had. "I couldn't believe it," she said, "But then I started calling lawyers and Legal Aid and they said it wasn't unusual. It's bad enough coming up with last month's rent, a security deposit and a cleaning deposit. What are they doing with all this deposit money? It must be in the millions in this area alone. Why can't it be put into a fund for community services or at least in a bank so we can collect interest? This is the money they're using to invest in our community."

Residents have also expressed their concern and opposition to the University of California's Medical Center at the west end of Haight that over the last years has expanded more and more into the community. Recently UC announced plans to acquire the unused Polytechnic High School which sparked wide-spread community resistance. At a recent public hearing before the Surplus Buildings Committee, a community coalition proposed instead, a multi-use service and cultural center, documenting its urgent need in the community.

Neighborhood residents are also fighting to save the Straight Theater on Haight St. Its current owner has applied for a demolition permit and intends to build a parking lot.

Residents believe the theater can be put to community use and continued "commercialization" on Haight St. will mean a shopping area where many can't afford to shop. "They want another Union Street," said one spokesperson.

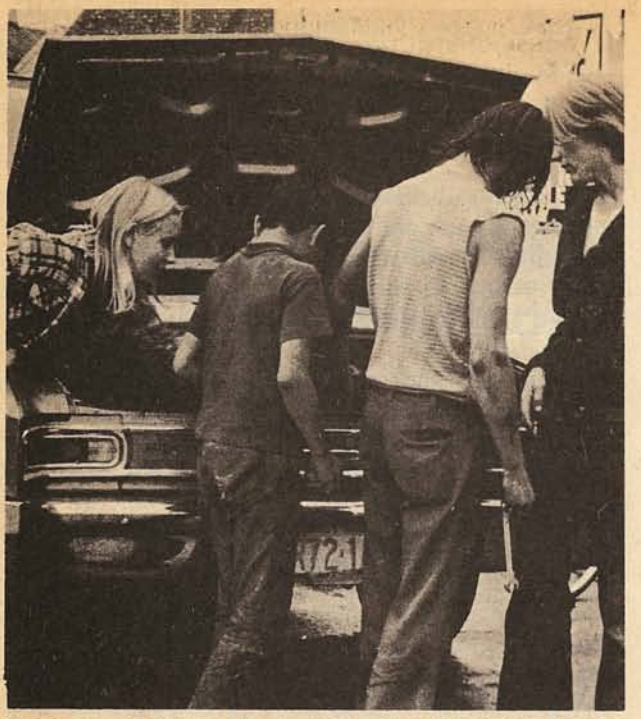
While low and moderate income people fight to save the neighborhood, the growing number of upper income residents and merchants are organizing to promote Haight-Ashbury as an "up and coming" community. As one woman put it, "For me when they say 'up and coming' it means that myself and others will be out and going."□

# *Milwaukee Economic Development Plan Hurts Community Programs*

(Milwaukee, Wis.) Started by Terrence Brulc in 1971 in a garage in an alley, on this city's southside, the Inner City Auto Repair and Training Center (ARTC) provides a place where young people can receive employable training. The program has been so successful that All State Insurance, who has been a big contributor to the program, has found that the car theft rate on Milwaukee's south side went down three to four percent in the first six months of the Training Center's existence.

ARTC originally was sponsored by the Inner City Development Project (ICDP), and Terry was assigned to the program through his position as a community worker. During this time the program grew into a corner garage and received many local and national awards. A total of 270 youth have graduated the program and many have gone on to successful employment. Between 1971 and 1976 ICDP was looked on as a place where people could go, not because of its institutional position but because of workers like Terry who went out of their way to deal with problems when people brought them to the center. Because of programs like ARTC, people turned toward ICDP for solutions to their many problems.

Then in 1976 things changed, new boundaries or "Target areas" were drawn up, identical to the



**The successful Inner City Auto Repair and Training Center program has been threatened by Milwaukee's Inner City Development Project.**

boundaries and target areas of Milwaukee's economic development plans. New policies were introduced with no structure for community input or consultation with neighborhood residents. Priorities were changed within the Inner City Development Project from the needs of community programs to the needs of individual families. Workers and resources were arbitrarily withdrawn on a moment's notice. ARTC as well as other groups had the rug pulled from under their feet. As city services such as the Natatorium were simultaneously withdrawn, the effect on the poor southside community has been brutal.

In January 1976, Terry was told by Kathy Kiedrowski, Assistant Executive Director of ICDP and Luis Salazar, a board of governors member, that by July, 1976 the ARTC would be "spun-off" on its own, claiming that five years was long enough to develop the program. Ted Seaver, Director of ICDP - South, added his weight to this new policy by telling Terry, "If you go near the training center during working hours, I'll fire you." Without Terry to handle the day-to-day problems of the program, the program quickly deteriorated and had closed up a year later.

The newly elected Residents Council upon hearing of this situation expressed shock and outrage at ICDP for allowing ARTC to be effectively strangled. At the last council meeting they directed Seaver to change whatever bureaucratic hang-up there was to get Terry assigned back to the ARTC pointing out that this was another example of Ted Seaver's failure to recognize a need in the community and respond to it in a constructive manner. Instead he was a willing participant in the attempt to destroy a program which was looked on as a model for the entire community. As KEEP STRONG goes to press, Terry is still not working at ARTC and says, "Whatever bureaucratic change was necessary hasn't happened yet."

Meanwhile, the Residents Council has inquired about a recent proposal to aid the Southside Peoples Food Co-op acquire a vehicle for shopping and also to deliver orders to seniors. Learning that the only assistance that the ICDP gave the Co-op was to gather information on it, the Residents Council expressed disgust that the ICDP, with access to millions of dollars worth of resources, could not find a concrete way to help a group which has been providing valuable service to over 250 families in the area consistently week to week. The Residents Council members have offered to donate the $5 a month they receive for meeting expenses to help the Co-op through this crisis. They formed a fund, that they themselves could control to help any group through a crisis. Though small, the money could be extremely effective. At their insistence the Co-op accepted the donation, pointing out the contradiction that it was the ICDP who had funds and salaried workers and the responsibilities for just this type of problem.□

# FIGHTING CITY HALL

## *State Senator Harold Washington Begins Campaign*

(Chicago, Il.) State Senator Harold Washington announced last month the opening of his campaign for re-election to represent the southside 26th legislative district in the primary elections early next year. Although unsuccessful in his primary bid for Mayor last year, Senator Washington carried five wards and ran the strongest campaign by a Black candidate that this city has ever seen. The common stands that the Senator has taken in his 13 years of legislative service have been for jobs, housing and education.

In a poll conducted by Chicago Magazine shortly after the April Mayoral primary this year, Washington was named as one of the ten best legislators in Illinois. He also received honorable mention in a similar poll conducted by the Chicago Sun-Times shortly after. Washington has earned

**State Senator Harold Washington showed his support for the Uptown community's demand for a comprehensive health clinic by attending the Cook County Health and Hospitals governing commission meeting last month.**

respect for his strong legislative stands for jobs, housing and education. Many in his district have noted that they can always be confident that when there is an issue at hand so is Washington.

Intercommunal Survival Committee Coordinator Slim Coleman, a northside area coordinator for Washington in his primary bid for Mayor earlier this year said, "Since the campaign last April, Washington has responded to every issue that has been of importance that we have brought to him. He didn't hesitate to support our suit against the city's Overall Economic Development Plan and has shown sincere opposition to this city's masterplan which will have the effect of 'whitening the inner city.' When we asked him to join us at the Cook County Health and Hospitals Governing Commission meeting last month to show support for our request for a health clinic for the Uptown community he was there unlike many other people we had asked.

"We have had a very good experience with Washington. One of the women that came with us to County for the clinic expressed the feelings of many people when she said that this was the first time that she had seen a politician come out after an election and show their support for a community struggle. struggle.

"Washington was willing to take on concerns of people all over Chicago when he took on the machine in the last primary election for mayor. Now people all over Chicago should support him in his bid for re-election to the State Senate in a campaign which we can expect the machine to try and take over."□

# *HUD Warns Chicago To Provide Low-Income Housing*

(Chicago, Ill.) Because of the misuse of federal Community Development funds, the city of Chicago has been warned, in a letter to Mayor Bilandic dated September 28 and signed by Chicago area HUD director Elmer C. Binford that it must meet its goals for the first two years of its Community Development program "as a condition of our approval of your third year grant" of $61,441,000."

"Your accomplishments in achieving your housing goals have been below expectations," Binford wrote. The letter also included figures showing that as of September 16, the city was 5,966 housing units short of its goal of 11,839 units of new or existing and rehabilitated housing for the first year of the Community Development program which ended 13 months ago.

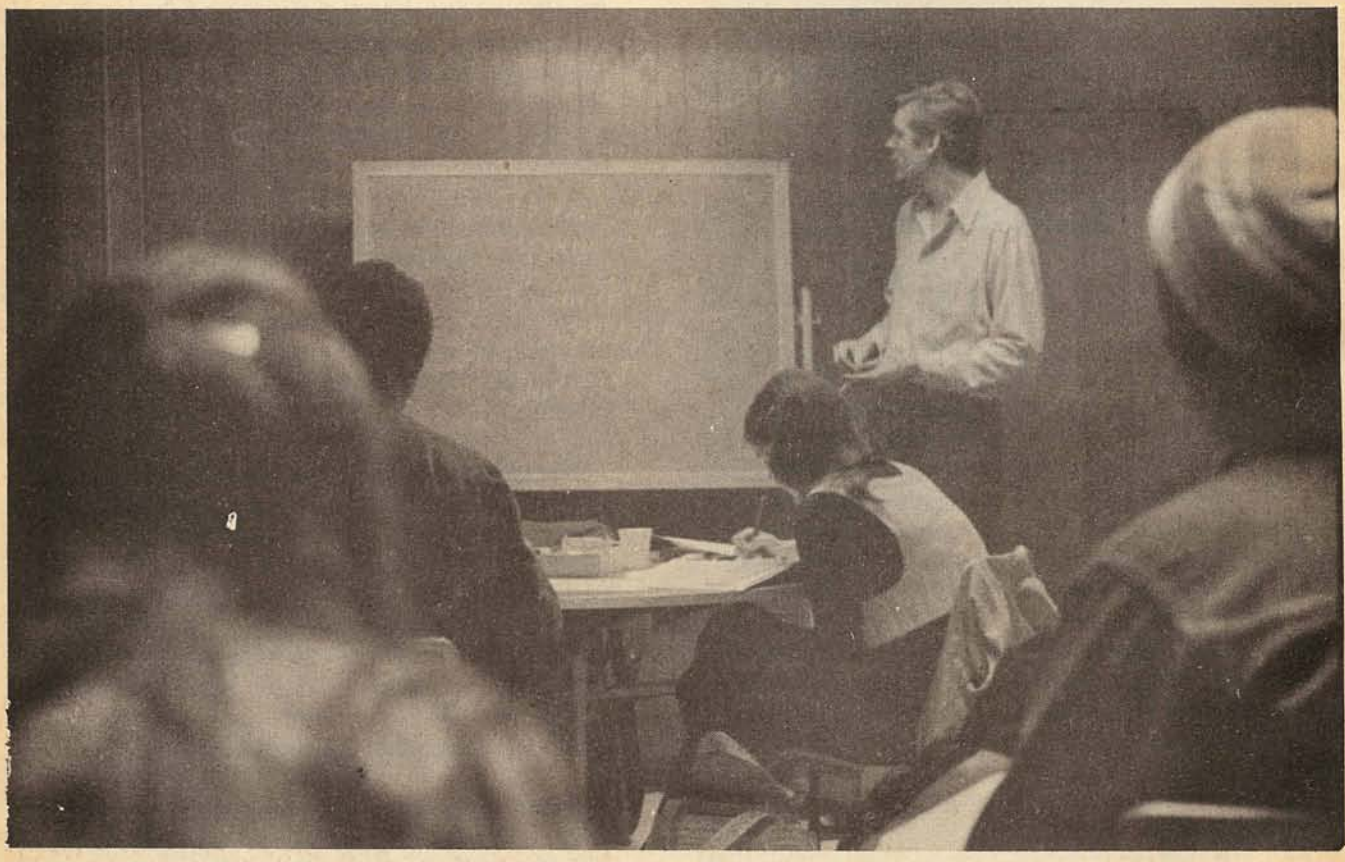
According to federal regulations, Chicago "should have accomplished 100 per cent of your first year housing goal" by the September date and "significant progress should have been made in accomplishing your second year Housing Assistance Plan goal." Both these goals were for low-income housing.

The city also is given two deadlines for achieving full occupancy of existing housing in which rents are subsidized for poor families and the elderly under Section 8 of the Federal Housing and Community Development Act. By next April 1, all units included in the city's goals for the first year Community Development program which ended September 30, 1976, must be occupied and by September 20, 1978 all units included in goals for the second year which ended last September 30, must be occupied.

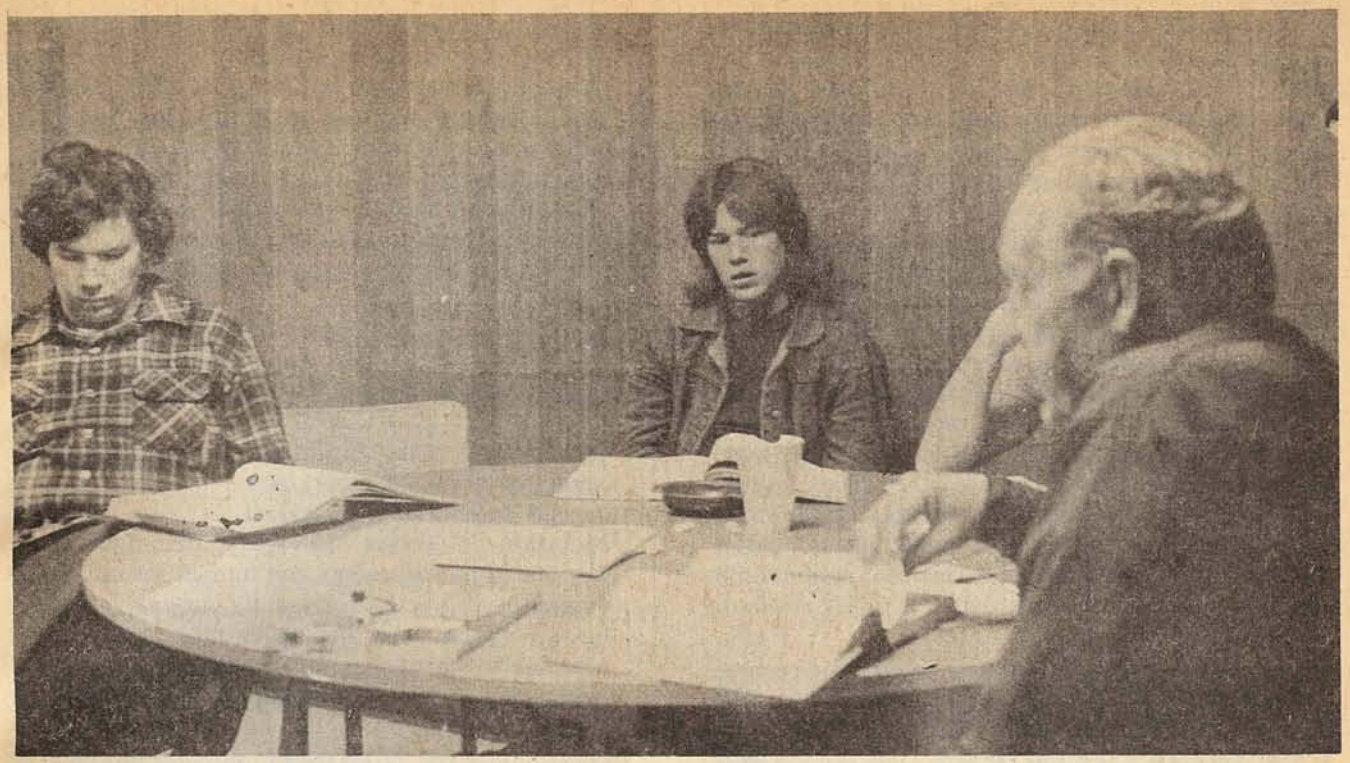
The five page letter gives the city until December 1 to submit detailed programs of activities, complete with timetable for achieving various housing goals and then requires the city to file progress reports on those programs next January 15, March 15 and June 15, according to the **Chicago Sun-Times.**□

# THE UPTOWN COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

KEEP STRONG this month visited the three month old Uptown Community Learning Center and talked with ISC National Coordinator Slim Coleman, who serves as campus coordinator for the Uptown Campus of the Daniel Hale Williams University which functions there. Coleman discussed the program offered, and its role in the community's total "program for survival." The center, located at 4715 N. Broadway, is a beautiful facility, brightly painted, clean and well organized and yet comfortable. Students moved in and out, going to classes, some studied in the student lounge, others talked quietly. A quick walk through the hectic, survival torn and sometimes fearful community surrounding the center only highlighted the determination to have a place, some place, where



**Slim Coleman, teaching a class on the Literature of Struggle: "Once the program at the Learning Center has shown that people written off by the system as 'unemployable' and 'uneducable' can accomplish great things given equal opportunity, then we feel that the people themselves will take up the program and expand it beyond our wildest imagination."**



**Instructor Jack Larsen (right) with students learning computer science. "It is a principle we hold to that students can begin right away in some course that introduces them to the area they want to go into and the skills required for that area."**

people from the oppressed community could think, and plan and prepare. It appeared that here was such a place.

KS: Maybe we could start by asking you to explain the purpose of the Learning Center and describe how it got started.

COLEMAN: Simply stated, there was a need in this community for our people to get concrete employment skills. The more this city, following along with the rest of the country, began to close out those without employment qualifications, the greater we saw the need become. Then too, as part of the Daniel Hale Williams University, the students attending here are able to get something that many before thought was impossible: a college education and a college degree. As in all of the other ISC survival programs, we intend not only to meet a concrete need for service but to prove to ourselves that our people can do whatever anyone else can do, if given the chance. Once the program at the learning center has shown that people written off by the system as "unemployable" and "uneducable" can accomplish great things given equal opportunity, then we feel the people themselves will take up the program and expand it beyond our wildest imagination. Then they will fight to force the system to give them the education and jobs they have a right to or they will change the system so that it will. That was really the purpose of the learning center.

KS: Could you describe the program offered at the Learning Center?

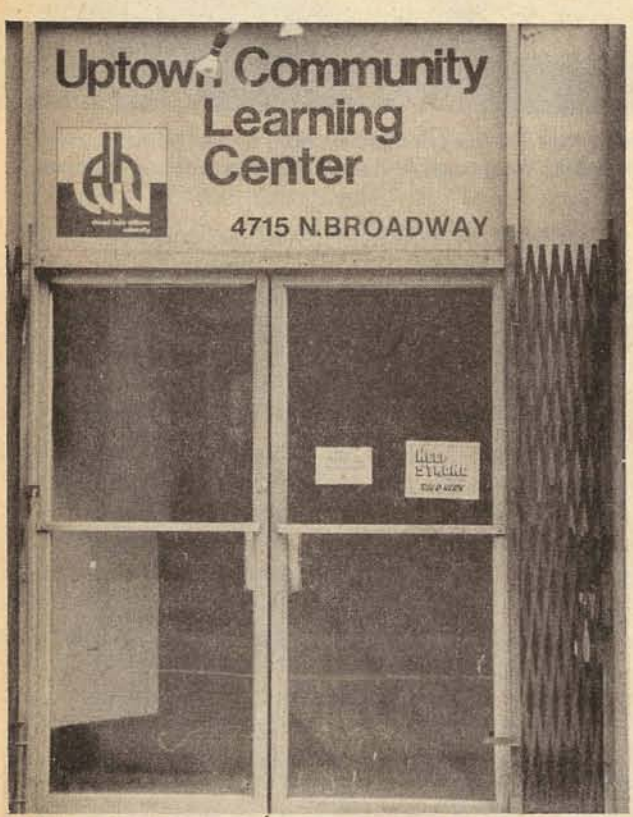
COLEMAN: Certainly. We offer concentrations in computer science, electronics, business and accounting, secretarial science, urban science and services and health science. Students may earn either the AA degree (a two year degree) or the regular four year BA or BS degree. While a high school diploma is not required for enrollment, we are looking for people who are serious and willing to stick through until they get what they want. So naturally a lot of work is done on basic reading comprehension and writing skills. However, it is a principle we hold to that students can begin right away in some course that introduces them to the area they want to go into and the skills required for that area. Other basic learning skills courses are structured to help students fill in the background they need in their main courses as they go along.

The scheduling of classes is done only after we have found out what times the students can come because most of the people who attend the Learning Center have a full time job just surviving or raising families. We make our schedules to fit their needs. And no student is dropped because emergencies or difficult situations come up that keep them from attending classes for some length of time. We just work to keep the student caught up, going to their homes or to the hospital if they are sick. It is a hard sacrifice for people to take time out of all the things they have to do to go to school and the least we can do is understand this.

The program offered at the Learning Center is both traditional and non-traditional. It is traditional

in the sense that students receive training according to standards that will qualify them at a level equal to students graduating from any college. It is non-traditional in the sense that the school is shaped around the needs of the students and around life in the poor and oppressed community.

One other aspect of the program is that through a carefully worked out process of evaluation students can earn credits for their life experience, thus cutting short the time they have to spend in order to earn degree qualifications. This is in line with the philosophy of the school which treats people like adults who have acquired much wisdom and knowledge throughout their lives, not as people who have no intelligence because they have little education. It would really be impossible for the staff to treat students as if they were unintelligent because almost all of the staff live in the community themselves and know better.




**The Uptown Learning Center. "Knowing how things work and knowing that we can make things work ourselves creates a strong spirit that 'We can do anything.'"**

KS: The program sounds very good, but what has been the response of the students?

COLEMAN: The response of the students would move mountains. You have to understand who our students are. We have examples of both a mother and daughter and a father and son attending classes together. We have students who have been leaders in the community, who have had many, many different kinds of jobs, who have been in Vietnam or Korea; some who recall the depression of the 1930's and some who are turning 19 in the depression of the 1970's already supporting a family with two or three children. In one class earlier in the term, students were asked to write a paragraph describing the purpose of education. One student wrote simply, "the purpose of education is to let me learn those things which I need to survive that I have never been allowed to learn up till now." And that really sums up what has been the response of the students.

KS: How does the college program at the Learning Center fit into the Intercommunal Survival Committee's total program for survival?

COLEMAN: Like the spark plugs fit into the engine of a car. All our other survival programs depend on education in several different ways, but education is always the spark that ignites the gasoline of human energy and human resources that makes the engine of community survival programs turn. We have never had much money to start or continue to implement the community services we have established in the community. Their success depends on unleashing the human energy of the people who need the services to develop mechanisms that will provide them. It is the spirit of "We can do anything" that makes our survival programs successful. And there, of course, lies a difficult problem.

We say often that the most powerful weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the minds of the oppressed. By this we mean that we accept the image of ourselves that the rich and well-educated and the conditions of our oppression lead us to accept. This is a negative image. We are proud, but we lack self-respect. We are taught to believe that there are many things we cannot do and it will always be that way.

Education frees us of this negative self-image because it allows us to understand the way the system works and to get an explantion of why we are forced to live in certain conditions. Education makes things that are held up as mysteries like medical knowledge, and knowledge of computers, and knowledge of the courts and structure of governmental decision-making into things that just require a little discipline and study for **anyone** to understand.

Knowing how things work and knowing that we can make things work ourselves creates a strong spirit that "We can do anything." This again is the spark that makes any of our survival programs work.

And then, very concretely, the school is training legal workers for our legal program, teachers for our each one teach one program, accountants for our cooperatives and medical technicians and nurses for the health clinic we have just fought for and won for our community. Perhaps the health clinic is the best example. We have fought for nearly a year to get the

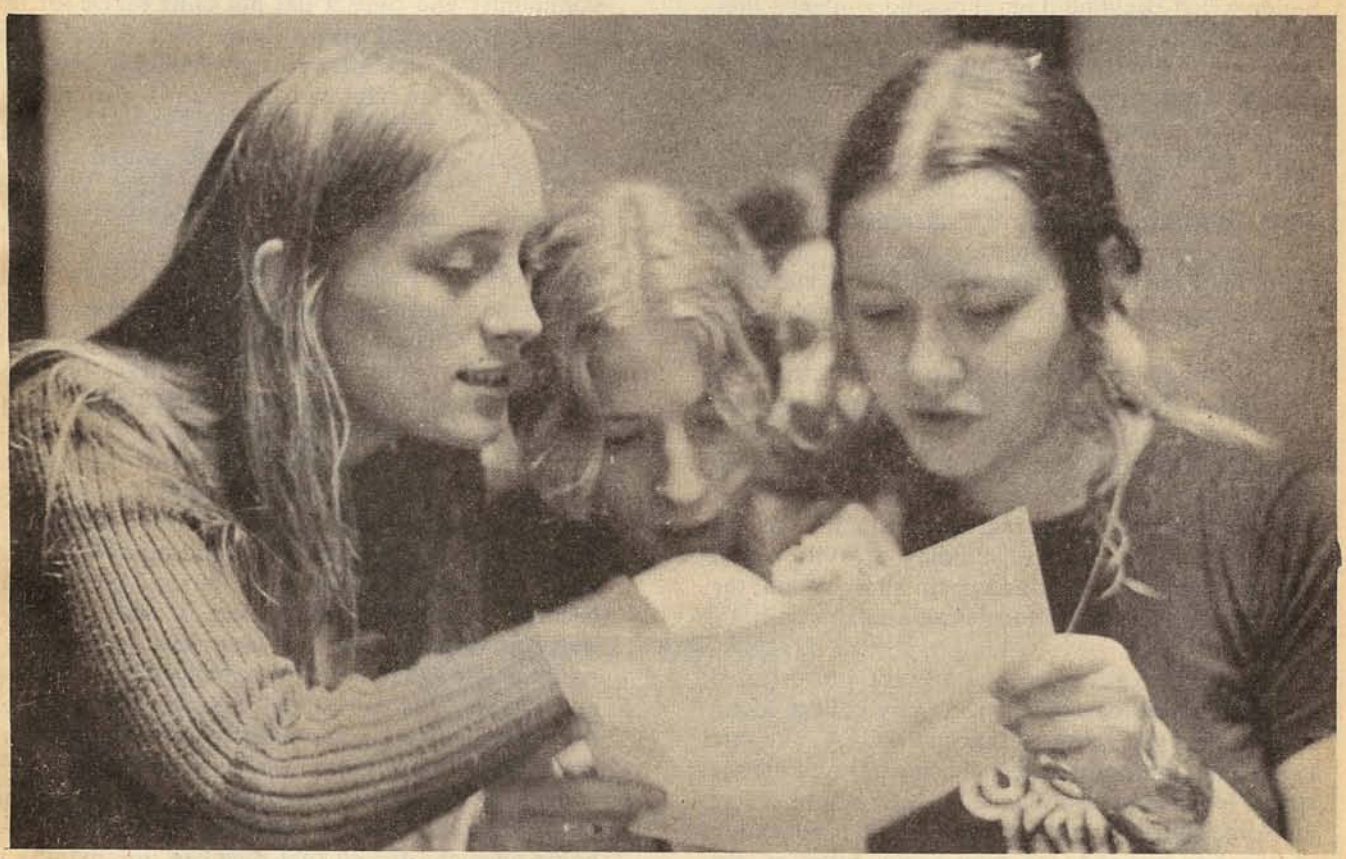
Cook County Hospital to establish a comprehensive family health center with a special facility for black lung and occupational diseases in Uptown. It appears now that we have won the struggle and the hospital authorities at the highest level have given us assurance that the clinic will be established very soon. But how will the community control and monitor the quality of health care? Just having a community board is not sufficient. We need nurses, technicians, doctors, social service workers, receptionists and medical secretaries who come from the community and are responsible to the community. The staff of that clinic will really control the health care at our new clinic and yet we have very few professional staff we can count on now from this community. So the college is helping to develop the people with the necessary qualifications and training to staff and run a health clinic truly responsible to the community.

Finally, we have since the beginning of our organization taken our direction in the development of a program for survival from the Black Panther Party. Recently the Party founder and President, Huey P. Newton, defined the most important issues in the country as that of finding jobs that pay a decent wage and carry with them dignity and a future for the hundreds of thousands of people who are unemployed. And it is easy to see that a country such as this, with all its wealth and technology, should be able to provide full employment. The college is in a way our most important survival program aimed at full employment.

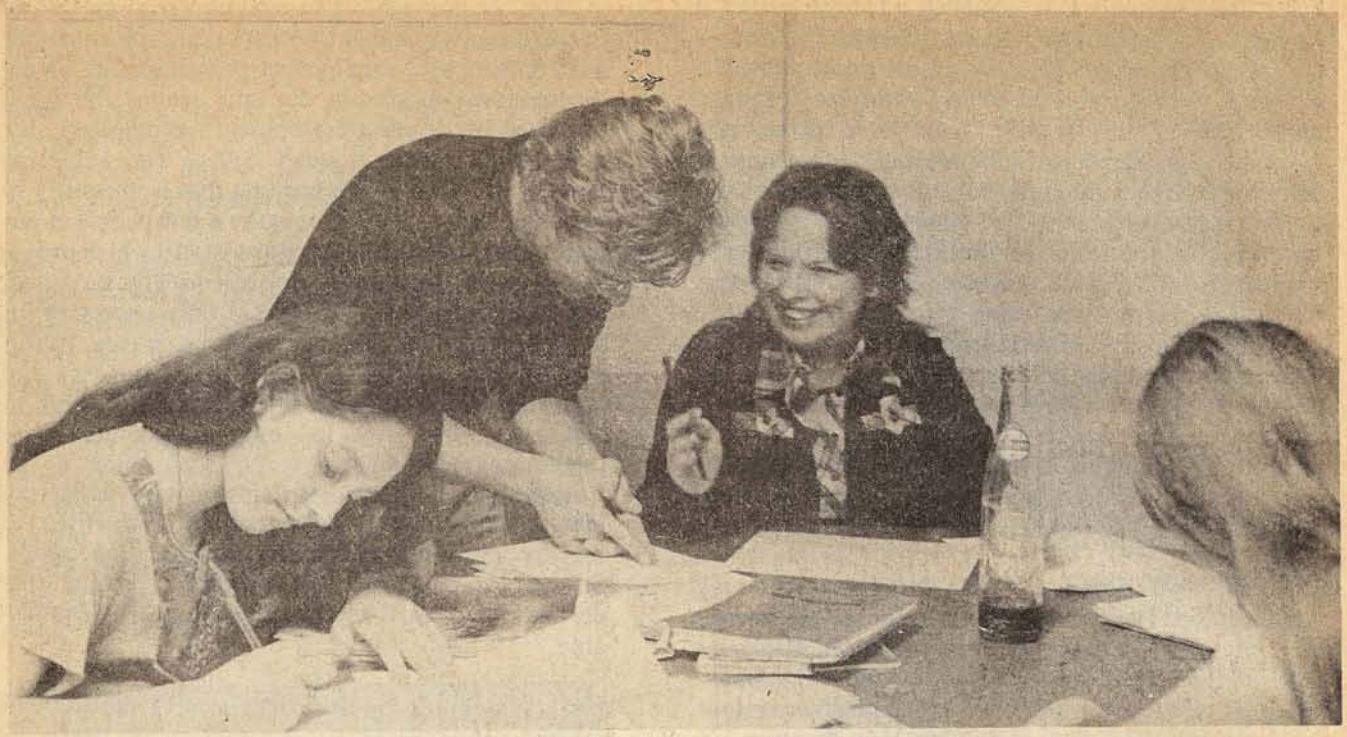
Now, we are fighting in coalition with groups all over Chicago to change the city's policy on economic development and employment programs and we are having some success in our suit against the city's powerful Economic Development Commission. We don't think that our small college can solve the massive problem of job training that is necessary to be solved. But we can serve quite a few people in our community and we can provide a model which proves that poor and oppressed people, formerly unskilled, can learn the advanced technical skills necessary for most jobs today if they are given the chance. In this way we can destroy the myth which the city and power structures all over the country are trying to feed us: that we in our communities are "unemployable." There is no such thing as an "unemployable." In fact, that is a very dangerous idea, much like the ideas that allowed Hitler to murder seven million Jews in concentration camps. So we are committed to building a model that destroys the idea that some people are "unemployable."

KS: Why don't the city colleges serve the students in the community that now come to the Learning Center?

COLEMAN: That is a real contradiction and of course we would hope some day that the city "community" colleges would actually serve the community in the way the Learning Center does. But they don't now. As a matter of fact, every week now



**Students in Graphic Arts course study proofs of photographs they took themselves.**



**Communications class with instructor Mark Roudane. "You must learn from teachers and other students in an atmosphere that allows you self-respect."**

we are getting students from Truman City College right here in Uptown who want to transfer. But you have to understand the history of the city colleges.

Truman College, for instance, has a brand new building that could hold ten thousand students. they have only a few thousand and only a few hundred of these are from the community surrounding the college. Truman was never intended to serve this community. The instructors as that college are mostly teachers transferred out of city colleges in the Black and poor communities when Truman (then Mayfair) was located out on the far northwest side. The place is run like a fortress and the instructors, many of them, are actually afraid of the students. There is no communication.

You cannot learn from expensive buildings. You must learn from teachers and other students in an atmosphere that allows you self-respect. Many students, on enrolling at Truman, drop out quickly because they can't meet the inflexible class schedules and meet their own survival responsibilities at the same time. That gigantic building at Wilson and Racine is locked up tight as a drum all week-end, the only time when some students can attend school.

The city colleges in general are not job oriented and a two year degree from the city college along with 50 cents will get you a ride on the CTA. They are holding institutions that keep the unemployed off the streets for another two years after high school. There are some students that benefit from their education at the city colleges, of course, in spite of the curriculum. But there are many who simply drop out and become totally discouraged about ever getting an education.

Truman College is also responsible for destroying thousands of units of low-income housing in this community and since it has not done much for the community since it opened here, there is little love lost between that strange ugly building and the families who are fighting to keep a place to live.

KS: What potential for growth do you see for the Learning Center and for Daniel Hale Williams University generally?

COLEMAN: I believe the concept will grow much faster than we can keep up with. There will be opposition of course. Already they are attempting to pass laws that apply only to new colleges that will make it very difficult for students in the future to get state public scholarship money. But that can be dealt with. Most importantly, the concept of educational institutions rooted in communities and close to where unskilled people work, that use the skills and expertise of the community to build on does require great amounts of money or fancy buildings to become a reality. It is in fact a necessity that wherever there are poor and oppressed people, there be a "college," and it will take many different forms and shapes. We are simply trying to show that developing a real community college is possible. Once that is done there will be a college in every apartment building in the cities and every holler in the mountains. Because the force of a people who know once and for all that they can do anything is irresistable and can move mountains.□

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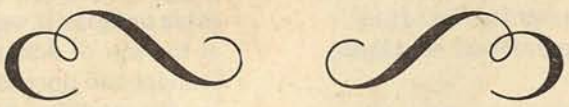

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# KEY PROSECUTION WITNESS TRAPPED IN LIES AT HUEY P. NEWTON HEARING

Shameful details of a tightly knit conspiracy to "put away" Black Panther founder and President Huey P. Newton dramatically unfolded as evidence from the prosecution was presented in Huey's preliminary hearing late last month in Oakland, California.

The flimsy prosecutor's case rests on the sole testimony of Crystal Grey, who claims to have witnessed the shooting of her friend and fellow prostitute on a poorly lit street corner in the summer of 1974. According to her testimony, a man got out of a car and for no apparent reason shot her girlfriend and then drove away. She later identified Huey Newton as this man.

The defense devastated Crystal Grey's testimony as Attorney Sheldon Otis pulled from her admissions that the victim, Kathleen Smith, identified her assailant by the name "Leibo"; that she was unable to see clearly because she is near-sighted and suffers from night blindness; and that she has depended on the Oakland police to get her out of numerous legal difficulties since the summer of 1974.

In early July, Huey Newton returned to Oakland to face charges which had forced him into three years of exile in Cuba. In 1974, the Party leader learned that charges were being fabricated against him to discredit him and the Black Panther Party, as part of the FBI's continuing COINTELPRO program. Besides numerous rumors that were being circulated, with the knowledge of law enforcement officials, a contract was out on Huey's life by heroin dealers who feared the Party's attack on the sale of heroin in Oakland. It was at this time that a bizarre series of charges were made against Newton. First charged with assault on a tailor, he was then charged with the murder of a 17 year old prostitute.

In the three years that followed, numerous documents detailing the FBI's counterintelligence program designed to destroy the Black Panther Party came to light. It was revealed that Huey Newton was at the top of Nixon's enemy list. The "Watergate" scandal had opened the eyes of the American public to the realities of intelligence intrigues of top government officials. And Church's Senate Committee on Intelligence operations revealed only the tip of the iceberg of the conscious government conspiracy to harass and destroy the Black Panther Party. The IRS, the FBI, the CIA, the Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) were all involved, it was shown. It had become a matter of fact that there had been 10 years of illegal government repression which had included a wide range of FBI and CIA "dirty tricks" resulting in the murder of over 30 of the Party's members.

It was in this context that Huey had returned to face the false charges against him last July. Making it clear that he had "no illusions" that the Carter administration was a "fair and just" one, Huey said at that time: "After all the revelations of recent years, the people are prepared to believe the kind of conspiracies that the government has inflicted upon us. Because of this I depend upon the people's consciousness to give me a fair trial or see to it that I get one."

### STAR WITNESS ADMITS POLICE PRESSURE

An intensive investigation by a team of lawyers working on Huey's defense unraveled the sordid details behind the false charges during his three years of exile. "I knew before returning to this country," Huey explained in a statement released October 31, "that the prosecution's chief witness, Crystal Grey, had admitted in a taped interview to one of my investigators that:

**BPP President Huey P. Newton and attorney Sheldon Otis.**

"She identified me as approaching her in a van "a month or so' after the incident, when it can be proven that I was out of the country at that time.

"She was 'loaded,' suffered from nightblindness, was nearsighted and not wearing her glasses the night of the incident she allegedly witnessed.

"In her precarious position as a street prostitute, she was subject to police pressure and had substantial involvement with the police, including:

1. She admitted that the police had promised to 'set her up' in the Bahamas if she testified against me.

2. She was arrested for a felony before my return and the prosecutor kept this charge—for which she could go to prison—hanging over her head.

3. After her felony arrest, she called the district attorney prosecuting me and was then released on the felony charge without having to put up any bail.

4. In addition, she was on probation for a prior crime before my return, is still on probation, and is subject to having that probation revoked at any time.

5. She also said that the other prosecution witnesses were too far away to have seen the assailant."

Testimony in the celebrated preliminary hearing drew to a close October 31. Closing arguments were set for Monday, November 7 and it is expected that the decision of whether or not to bound Huey over for trial would be made during the following two weeks.

Following the final testimony, Sheldon Otis, chief Counsel for the Panther leader, conducted an exclusive interview with THE BLACK PANTHER. Excerpts of that interview reveal highlights of the many lies and inconsistencies prevalent in the week's drama as well as the astute attorney's insights into the prosecution's case against Huey.

Q: Now that the preliminary hearing is over, how do you feel about the case the prosecution presented?

A: They really don't have much of a case. The homicide rests on the testimony of two witnesses, both of whom demonstrated in court to be telling lies for the prosecution—prostitutes under pressure of the vice squad to do what the vice squad wanted. I think that we were able to demonstrate that there were no identifications made of Huey until after the homicide bureau contacted the vice squad and asked for help. Both witnesses were under pressure from the vice squad, were basically told that the vice squad thought Huey was involved, and were shown photographs beforehand. It was very easy for them to cooperate.

As a result of their cooperation both of them received benefits from the police, such as recommendations for O.R. [release on own recognizance] and promises of not being busted.

Mr. Callins I think generally admitted he didn't remember what had happened, didn't remember who had hit him.

Q: Another one of the prosecution's witnesses at the hearing, a Sergeant Brierly, said that he didn't follow up on certain leads. Is that normal?

A: No, it isn't normal. Every good investigator would follow up. For example, the testimony was that in the very early morning hours, 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning, her mother gave Sgt. Brierly the name of a person who had previously had a fallout with her daughter. Now she didn't mention what that fallout was, just the name of a person who obviously held a

grudge against Kathleen. The first thing a good investigator would do is try to contact that person, find out where that person was when Kathleen was injured.

It was obvious that from the start the police intentionally wanted to nail Huey for that offense. the whole investigation started out, as they admitted, with a voice from the crowd saying Huey Newton had been there. Who was that voice? My speculation is basically that it was either one of the prostitutes who earlier had been committed to setting Huey up, or a police officer on the spot, or agent of the police, who had been trying to set Huey up.

Q: From your review of the Senate Committee documents, does this case fit into that broad conspiracy of a secret government war against the BPP?

A: It's exactly that type of thing. Both cases fit into it. You can use the pun, they're "tailor-made."

As the Church Committee indicated, every step would be taken to attempt to destroy and discredit Huey, using wiretaps, using informers, using agent provacateurs, using intrusions into his apartment. Mr. DuClot [the building engineer who worked for the FBI] let the police into the apartment and presumably showed them a car (at this point there's been no testimony whose car it really was.) If you lived in a private apartment, the building superintendent would not voluntarily let the police in without calling you and saying, "Hey, there are some police here who want to see you."

Now why did DuClot do this? He did it because he was an agent working with the police. I'm not certain if he didn't call the police in the first place, although Sgt. Brierly testified that he (Brierly) called the police.

Sure, this is exactly the type of thing thst the Church Committee said the government was engaged in, in order to discredit Huey and the Party.

Q: How would you summarize Sgt. Brierly's testimony? Did it hurt the defense?

A: I think Brierly's testimony supported the defense theory. One of the most devastating pieces of testimony that came from Brierly was the fact that the night this thing happened he went and contacted the vice squad for help, knowing full well that the vice squad was bent on using prostitutes to try to frame Huey. And that help came.

Crystal Grey had looked at photographs on August 7 and failed to identify Huey. Another witness had looked at photographs on August 7 and failed to identify Huey. The vice squad then contacted these witnesses, told them that they wanted

**BPP President Huey Newton: "I depend upon the people's consciousness to give me a fair trial or see to it that I get one."**

Huey for this crime, told them that they would not be busted for other offenses, told them they would help them if they would make identification. Sure enough, with a week they went ahead and made identifications of Huey. Sure enough, within a week they went ahead and made identifications of Huey.

So, I think Brierly's testimony, coupled with his own admissions that he didn't follow any other leads, was not damaging. He focused on Huey within the first hour of being on the scene although there was no witness whose name he could give us, no person who claimed Huey was there. Brierly helped rather than hurt.

Q: Doesn't it hurt, at least publicly, when the defense doesn't make a presentation at the preliminary hearing?

A: No, it does only because the public doesn't understand that a preliminary heaing is a preliminary matter, and that a person charged almost always will be bound over for trial. In fact, the prosecution rarely puts on very many witnesses. It will usually put on the most minimum-type witness to say anything that could be referred to as "a scintilla"—a minor amount of evidence—to bind over. We know this trial will not be held from anywhere from six months to a year from now. To put on our defense now when the judge will eventually say it's a question for a jury is not in the best interest of the person accused.

The public has to be educated to the fact that a preliminary hearing is not a trial and the failure to put on a defense—that is, with defense witnesses testifying—does not mean at all that the person does not have a defense. It simply means that the defense is going to do it before a jury, because there is likely to be a jury trial. Psychologically it hurts because most members of the public don't understand the nature of a preliminary hearing.□

# "THE COMPANY THAT RULES CHICAGO"

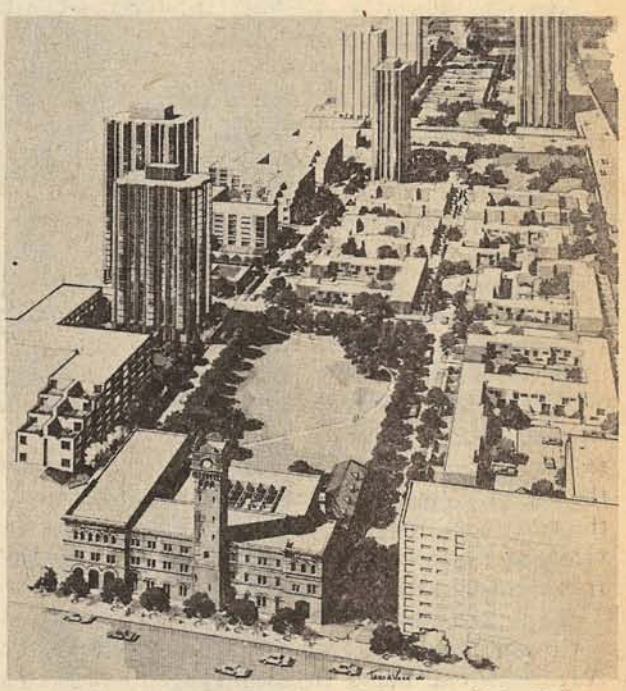
While the wheels of banking and big business continued to turn in Chicago, the Department of Buildings, the Board of Health, the building courts, a slum landlord and a timely arsonist combined to finish the job off on a multi-unit building, filled with low-income families and many children, that the Department of Urban Renewal had begun several years before by letting the word out that they would someday take the land. While some tenants were hospitalized or watched their babies hospitalized in high fever comas caused by health conditions in the building, all the tenants lost everything they had as the building went up in flames.

It is hundreds of situations like this, dozens in every poor community around Chicago, that leads the oppressed communities to seek out the source of a masterplan which is torturously driving them out of the city and to identify the masterplanners responsible for developing it.

The search for the existence of a plan had led back to the document which the city calls the 1966 Comprehensive Plan for Chicago. This was added on to through the sixties by a series of development plans for every neighborhood but the center of the city. Finally there came the Chicago 21 plan; a plan for the Loop and core of the city. The plans existed and proved the city's intention to run the Black, Latino and poor White communities out, replacing them hopefully with middle and upper-income Whites from the suburbs. But the problem was that there was nothing for the community to fight.

The 1966 comprehensive plans, the neighborhood development plans and even the central city Chicago 21 plan, although developed by high level city officials, were never even brought to the city council to be passed. Instead, they have simply been implemented piece by piece. If the whole plan were exposed and put up to the citizens of Chicago, the plan would be rejected. But moving piece by piece the masterplanners defeat one neighborhood coalition after another, sometimes only moving a block or even half a block at a time.

Then the communities of Chicago got a lucky break. The city attempted to get itself declared an overall economic development area and submitted an overall economic development plan. For the first time their plans were exposed in a comprehensive application for federal funding, amounting to



**Artist's conception of Dearborn Park, part of the Chicago 21 plan which "proved the city's intention to run the Black, Latino and poor White communities out, replacing them hopefully with middle and upper-income whites from the suburbs."**

hundreds of millions of dollars. Study of the new plan exposed that they intended to take federal money designed to fight unemployment in hard core unemployed poor communities and use it to develop pet projects like the State Street Mall and Dearborn Park. It was exposed also that they intended to use job funds to go to the so-called employables that lived on the edge of the city, taking these funds away from the so-called "unemployables" in the inner city for whom the jobs were designed.

Most important, when the city submitted its overall economic development proposal the master-planners were forced to surface. The plan was developed under the directions of the Economic Development Commission, a group of 21 wealthy corporate executives and highly political city planners. The group defied publicity and kept its true role mostly in the shadows but, with the help of the lawsuit against the overall economic development plan, the facts behind this mysterious group are coming out.

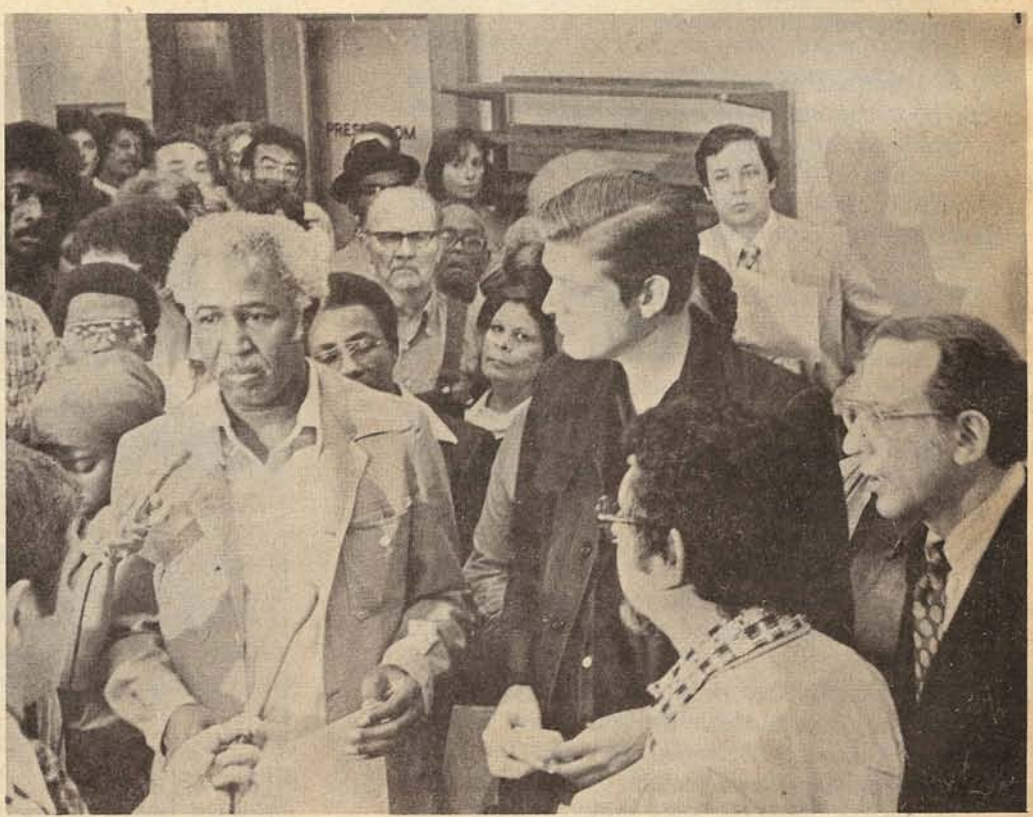
First of all, this group of masterplanners is virtually one company. They sit on each other's boards of directors and have common economic interests. Chairman Thomas Ayers who is chairman and President of Commonwealth Edison also sits on the board of directors of the First National Bank of Chicago and on the board of directors of Sears Roebuck and Co. A. Robert Abboud, who is the chief executive officer of the First National Bank sits also on the board of Hart, Schaffner and Marx. And the list goes on. In this way the First National Bank of Chicago has at least four representatives on the commission. Commonwealth Edison has three. The Continental Bank has five. Sears has three and People's Gas has three. Rubloff, the developer, has two.

This group of bankers, real estate developers, downtown department store magnates and utilities corporations has established a tightly interlocking group of men with the power to channel federal and city funds into developments which are profitable to them, funds which are designed by law to help the unemployed and the communities in which they live.

Close analysis of banking loans made by the major banks like the First National and Continental who are heavily represented on the Economic Development Commission show that only a very small percentage of their loans went to the neighborhoods in Chicago. They did loan substantial money to develop sites for industry outside of the city and have large investments in Chicago 21 style projects near the loop. We are to be told that this group of men, representing the same institutions who have helped finance industry's move out of the city, are working to bring jobs back into the city!

### THE MEETINGS OF THE EDC

An attempt was made to find out what goes on in the meetings on the Economic Development Commission and what other plans they were projecting. Not finding any minutes available (which is required by law), the Commission was approached



**The Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan announcing the lawsuit against the OEDP..."The Commission thought at first that the objections raised by the Coalition...could be dealt with."**

**Commission members (from left) Louis W. Hill, John H. Perkins, Thomas G. Ayers and Philip M. Klutznik along with Mayor Bilandic. "The Economic Development Commission, the company that rules Chicago, is unifying the majority of people of the city, because it is attacking all of us."**

for copies. After some hemming and hawing they agreed to send copies to the Municipal Reference Library.

Although sketchy, the minutes do reveal several things about the masterplanners. The Commission thought at first that the objections to the overall economic development plan raised by the Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan could be "dealt with." As the months went on, however, they seemed to resign themselves to the fact that the plan could not be passed unless subjected to close scrutiny and input from communities throughout the city. It appears they would rather drop the plan's approval than allow than to happen. And instead they are returning to their piece by piece implementation of a plan for the destruction of poor neighborhoods that has never even been explained officially to the people, much less put to the test of voter opinion.

Most important, the minutes reveal that the Economic Development Commission is in actual fact the group that will request and administer funds for economic development and jobs on a year to year basis. They have already obtained federal funds for many projects and have begun implementing them. The city's loss of a five million dollar occupational health center was due to their failure to submit adequate information. And their plans to take CETA money out of the communities of the hard core unemployed are evidently going into effect.

The few references to EDC attempts to keep industry or draw new industry into the city are usually attempts that failed. The Ford Company's refusal to move a major plant into Chicago reflected another failure of the Economic Development Commission, a group whose representatives sometimes candidly admit that they have been interested more in real estate than in jobs.

After ten years of local community fights to save their neighborhoods, finally a group of men responsible for a citywide attack on neighborhoods and the unemployed who occupy much of them has surfaced. It is a group which has already failed once to meet Fedeal guidelines for representation from minorities, the unemployed and the underemployed, and yet it is the group that has taken charge of meeting the problems of unemployment and economic development in Chicago.

In announcing a massive conference to be held at the beginning of 1978, a member of the Coalition to Stop the Chicago 21 Plan summed up the newly exposed situation with both bitterness and enthusiasm: "We now have a clear cut enemy, a 21 headed emperor to unseat from his throne of power. The Economic Development Commission, the company that rules Chicago, is unifying the majority of the people of the city, because it is attacking all of us. Those seeking employment, those tenants determined not to be run out of another neighborhood, those fighting unnecessary expressways or demolitions of stable communities, the small property owners—everyone can now descend upon a single group of tyrants who see great profits coming in the development of the city of their dreams and ignore the years of human suffering and injustice in the city of our nightmares."□

# "WHEN PEOPLE WORK HARD ALL THEIR LIVES— WHAT HAPPENS?"

*Following is an interview conducted by* KEEP STRONG *in Greenpoint, N.Y. Greenpoint is a community with a long history and most of the people interviewed are part of that history. The context is senior citizens and the topics are varied and reflect a broad range of subjects.*

**The Past**

MRS. O'LEARY: Most people used to work in factories. I was a machine operator for 25 years but when the firm moved to Pennsylvania, I was too old to go with them and too young for a pension, so I just quit. People didn't make much money, but they helped take care of each other. If a woman was having a baby, her neighbors would take care of the other children. People didn't lock their doors at night and you could stay in the park and you could sleep on the fire escapes.

STEVE ZENCHUK: I came here from Russia in 1914, when I was 18 years old. I was supposed to go back, but then the war started, so I stayed. I worked as an auto mechanic in a garage for about 35 years. The main difference now is that older people are afraid to go out at night. When I was young, it was not frightening like that. People used to stick together more—they would go out for the whole bunch.

ALEXANDER KORZUN: I've lived in Greenpoint for over 40 years. I worked as a chef in a company for 30 years. We lived here during the Depression—there were hard times—you couldn't open your mouth and you couldn't fight for things because there was no organized backing.

**Benefits**

ALEXANDER KORZUN: The biggest problem today is that older people don't get enough benefits. I get Social Security and a small pension and I still have to hustle on the weekends. The man across the street gets $180 a month to pay for everything; its pitiful.

**Senior Citizens playing cards in Greenpoint: "People used to stick together more—they would go out for the whole bunch."**

NEELIE O'LEARY: Some of the senior citizens only get a small pension and they don't have enough money to buy the things that they really need. I get Social Security and a small pension but I have no bank account. There should be some place where we could cash our checks—somewhere reliable where we wouldn't have to worry. Some older people are too proud or too afraid to let you know what they have and what they don't have. They are disgusted with the runaround that they get from the food stamp office. I would rather have a piece of bread and butter and a cup of tea than go through what they do to you at food stamps.

STEVE ZENCHUK: Some people just don't get enough money every month. They are short—they get $200 or $225 a month and then have to pay at least $100 rent—so how much is left? Some of them go to the Senior Citizens Clubs for a free meal, which is a good thing.

HENRY MAURER: A lot of people don't get enough to exist—they pay rent, gas, electric—they're practically broke already. It don't make sense—when people work hard all their lives—what happens? They're lucky if they can exist. I tell my friends, this is a matter of social justice!

**(Top left:) Henry Maurer, (Bottom) Alexander Korzun, (Right) Florence Law. "The main thing when you make demands for change is to have an organized group behind you."**

### Housing

ALEXANDER KORZUN: Housing is poor here. There's some vandalism, but the housing is poor. Authorities give a deaf ear so most of the people don't want to involve themselves, so they figure, let's let it go.

HENRY MAURER: The best thing would be to build plenty of housing for senior citizens, because there's a shortage of rooms for older people. They claim there are plenty of places, but they're not at prices that we can afford. They could build a project here where older people could live together—of course, they would have to build up some tall buildings. Greenpoint would be a good spot for it.

### Health Care

MRS. O'LEARY: I'd like people to have a place to go when they get sick. Years ago, you could have a doctor come to your house. None of the doctors want to do it nowadays. I wouldn't know where to go if I got sick—I'd have to call an ambulance to take me to the hospital. I hope I'll never need one. Also, Greenpoint Hospital and Clinic should be kept open for the poor people of Greenpoint, Williamsburg, and Bushwick. The new hospital, Woodhull, was supposed to be opened already but its not. We need Greenpoint Hospital here for us. I know a woman in her 80's who takes other senior citizens to the hospital. We need more people to do more things like that.

### Crime

MRS. O'LEARY: One of the biggest problems for senior citizens is crime. They're afraid to go on the subway, they're afraid to go out of the house, and you can't sit in the park at night. If people stuck together more, this would help.

### Youth

ALEXANDER KORZUN: One thing that's important for young people is to learn how to respect—learn to respect your parents and learn to respect your elders.

FLORENCE LAW: Young people should persevere, no matter what they have to go through.

HENRY MAURER: I think what we need for young people is a school where they could learn a skill—there's a lot of people who are on welfare who wouldn't be if they could find a job.

MRS. O'LEARY: Young people should have jobs to occupy their minds because if you have nothing to do, you're bound to get into mischief.

STEVE ZENCHUK: Young people should stick together in an organized way. That would help older people too.

ALEXANDER KORZUN: The main thing when you make demands for change is to have an organized group behind you. If you have an organization with the people behind you, then you have power.□

## The Land Of Plenty—Plenty Of Hardship And Trouble

# THE CALIFORNIA CRUNCH

The home of the Dodgers, the Oakland Raiders, the United Farm Workers and Ronald Reagan. There was a time when this was the fastest growing state in the country. And, when no one was building houses anywhere in the country, the builders out here were running to the bank. Over 3000 people bought Cadillac Sevilles in the S.F. Bay Area in 1977. The average price of the car was $17,000. The average income of the buyers was $20,000. A two bedroom unfurnished apartment in S.F. costs $325 per month and the vacancy rate in the city is less than one per cent for large families. Buildings that cost $35,000 five years ago are sold for five times that much today. The starting price for tract houses being thrown up in rows in Beverly Hills is $250,000. During the Second World War and the Vietnam War and the years in between, when Defense contracts were plentiful, there was a whole lot of people out here with big jobs, making big money. However, today, a lot of these people are waiting on tables and pumping gas.

In spite of its large population, there are not very many native Californians. Most of the people have moved here from somewhere else. Many of them came with empty pockets and grand plans. Although the state of their pockets hasn't changed much, their plans have. To many people California is the land of plenty—plenty of hardship and plenty of trouble for plenty of people.

Actually, poor and working people moved here from the Bronx and the Phillipines, the fields of Alabama and the farms of Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas, with one thing in mind. They believed that there was a lot of work, a person could provide for their family and when you grew older, the government would respect your contribution and help you out a little bit. Whatever their age, when they moved out here, they left family and friends, neighborhoods they knew and neighbors they could turn to when money got tight and food got scarce.

Today, in 1977, there are over one million people in California who face each day desperate and discouraged. Work is very thin, the cost of living is high, and needed services are available only to a few.

The true experts on "California life" are the seniors. Those who have ended up here trying to find the ultimate promise of America. KEEP STRONG asked them what they found.

Robert Ragland and George Davis are residents of San Francisco's Tenderlion area. Maria Gonzalez and Verna Baird are residents of Stockton, a small city about 100 miles east of the Bay area in the San Joaquin Valley.

GEORGE DAVIS: "I moved back here two years ago after I had surgery for lung cancer. I've been very discouraged in coming back to san Francisco. I think it's become the most political ridden part in the United States. It's comparable to New York, Chicago and L.A.

"I was out here before, off and on, for years. I was a cook, chef, I traveled all over the world. Africa, Asia, all the countries. I worked in San Francisco. I worked up at Tahoe. I worked in some of the finest eating places around.

"When I came back out here my veterans records didn't transfer for eight months. I was getting $124 from social security. That was it. I stayed at the Cambridge Hotel. I was at the Victorian. Then I moved to the Bristol. It was always the same story—noise, pimps, dope, they charge you for meals that they don't feed you, the facilities are terrible.

"Because of my condition I'm afraid to go out

**George Davis: "Many people like myself, older people and the disabled, come to California. . . and we're snowed under. We don't have the finances nor the weight nor the will to get out of the mudhole that we're in."**

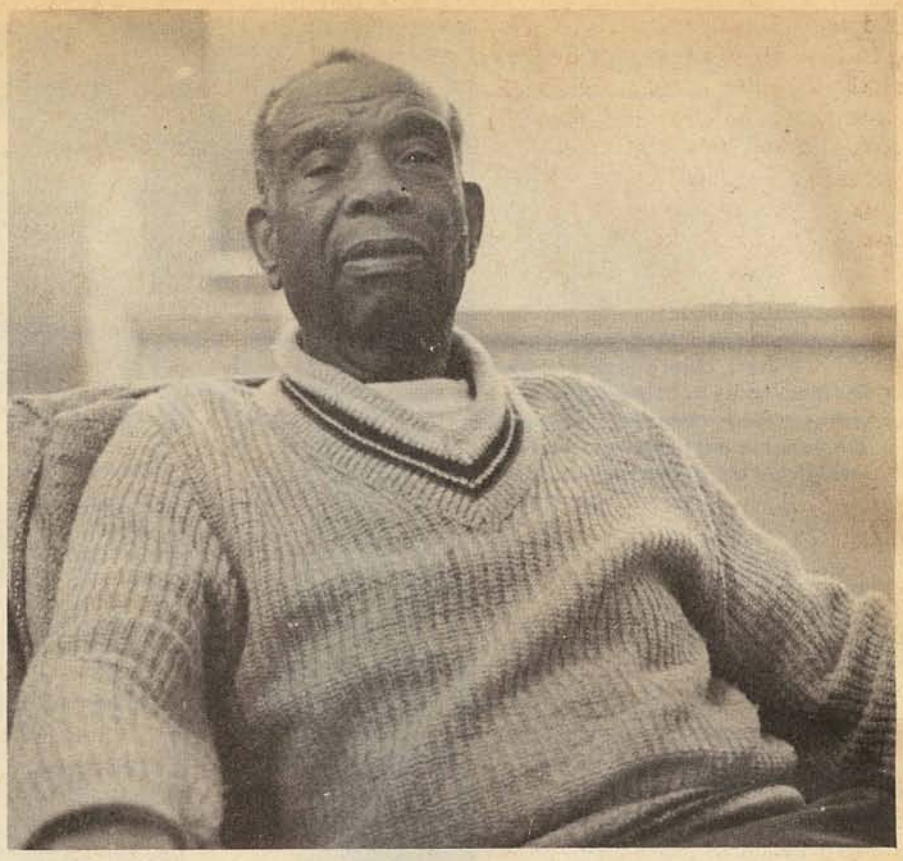
alone. I'm unstable on my feet—my legs ache and bother. I can only go a half block and I've got to stop at a lamp post or a meter box. The services are so distributed around town that it's been very difficult to get to and take advantage of them for me.

"It's been a very unpleasant two years of suffering through the public transportation breakdown (strike). You see, I had to do a lot of running around with this Veterans business. In the last two years I've spent more than $300 to get from one place to another. Down to the Social Security. Out to the VA. Up to Fort Miley. Now that's a stinking place. It costs six and a half dollars to get up there by taxi. You get up there and you just sit around three, four or five hours. They strip you down in the cold examining rooms and x-ray rooms and forget about you...You've got a big record. You've got a new doctor every time you go out there. They don't look at your record at all. They ask all the same questions every time. It's got to the point that I have knots in my stomach telling them again and again my medical history over my lifetime.

"Looking at my own picture regarding senior citizens and veterans it appears to me that they wish a bunch of the old bastards would drop dead, get off the rolls. And the Tenderloin district in San Francisco is burdened with a bunch of older citizens, disabled and such; we have to live in such hotels as this. Now I haven't had any hot water in ten days and they still expect the same rent. They don't give you any consideration. If they don't see you in 3 or 4 days, they don't come knock on your door and see how you are. They give you no attention and don't care. Many people like myself, older people and the disabled, come to California and their welfare rolls is overburdened. The city can't help it and the state can't help it. And we continue to come here. We're snowed under. We don't have the finances nor the weight nor the will to get out of the mudhole that we're in. Sometimes I lay down at night and hope that I won't wake up in the morning."

ROBERT RAGLAND: "I'm 66 now. I came out here in 1944 when my mother died. I was 36 or 37. We buried my mother and I just stayed out here after that. Before I moved here I was a porter and did janitor work in Colorado. After I got out here I worked in the shipyards. I worked at Kaiser and Bethlehem shipyards, for the railroad for a while, and some janitor work. Most of the time I lived at 1819 Post Street. I moved over to this hotel because I thought I was getting gypped at the last place. I was paying $150-160 a month. I only pay $115 here. But I get meals, too.

"My income is small. I get a total of $229 a month, $115 from social security. But I get by, I guess. I did have a big problem with the social security recently. They called me up and told me that I had drew some money. The office was on Divisidero and Post Street at that time. This fella told me that I drew a check for a good amount of money. A few months later I got a check in the mail for $700. I held onto it for a month before I cashed it. Five months later I got a letter



**Robert Ragland: "Things have changed a lot since I've been out here... There was work all through the shipyards. Now, there's a lot more people on the street."**

from welfare. They said I owed them $174 because they had overpaid me. It wasn't my fault; it was their mistake. But still they insisted that I had to pay them back. Then just a couple of months ago, they sent me another letter. This one said I owed $470. They think they got the money coming back to them. So, there you are. What have I got?

"Things have changed a lot since I've been out here. See, when I came out here it wasn't like it is now. There was work. Of course you had to go out and get it. But it's tougher to find work now. When I first came out here there was plenty of money. There wasn't so many winos or what I call dope guzzlers as there is now. You could walk down the street without anybody harassing you, because there was plenty of work. There was work all through the shipyards. Now, there's a lot more people on the street. More robbing and stuff like that.

"Surviving out here at my age is a matter of how you conduct yourself. You see, some senior citizens put themselves in a position that makes it easy for others to take advantage of them. I see this all the time in the bank when I go to cash my check. Older citizens, older women in particular, after they cash their checks, instead of putting their money in their pocketbooks, they turn around, count it and let everybody know how much they have. Do you know that there are fellas who come into the bank and stand there for no other reason than to find out whose got how much money they can rob? When I get mine, I stick it in my pocket and walk on out. I don't stand there and count it. I'm counting right along with the teller.

"I've been on these streets for many years and a lot of guys know me. I'm the kind of guy that makes a lot of friends, I put myself that way. I treat everybody nice, but I can't let anybody know what I've got. Sometimes I play like the other fella. I tell them, "I ain't got nothing." I don't give nobody no money on the street. I tell them I'm the same thing you are."

VERNA BAIRD: "Most of my family is here in Stockton. I came back here because my husband died in 1958. Before he died I worked. My husband was a Shriner and I was in the Ladies Auxiliary of the Shriners. I worked at the convalescent home at St. Anthony's in Mexico City. I also was a secretary, and when I was done with secretarial work, it was whatever needed to be done; taking care of the children or reading to the children or the kitchen. It didn't make any difference. I was available. I had two children of my own.

"When I came back to Stockton I got a job doing secretarial work for Elmer Castillio for 33 months. He was a very fine man. After I left Mr. Castillio in 1961 I noticed my hands. You know, after typing six hours a day, you get cramps and I wasn't getting any younger anymore so I figured I might as well get into some other type of work.

"I went into warehouse work. Canning, sorting,

field work. I enjoyed that. My daughter was married so I was working to support my 13 year old son and myself. I receive $159 a month from Social Security. I also work four hours a day, which brings my income up to $359 a month. But that doesn't include the three grandchildren that are living with me. My daughter abandoned seven grandchildren and I haven't heard from her in seven years. I get money from ADC only for one. If I wasn't working, Social Security wouldn't be enough. I pay $50 a month rent and utilities at this time of year are $60 to $70 just for gas and electric. I can not buy food stamps. They're too expensive. I'd much rather have it the way it used to be where they donate food to you.

"I believe the government should allow leniency with the property taxes. It should help senior citizens. Social Security should stay at 62 or 65, not raise it to 67. Many senior citizens have bought their homes and now many of them have to sell them because they can't pay their property taxes. I don't believe that's correct. Senior citizens should be allowed something at least.

"Now they've taken my widow's pension. Not more than three months ago I received a letter stating that in one household a person cannot receive two Social Security checks. I was cut off. I had to go to work. Social Security should also be a little more lenient with the elderly. Instead of having people go in there they should have social workers go out to the houses. After a certain age It's difficult to get around. I've seen them in the offices when I go down—the elderly. They're older than I am, 70, 75, and they just sit there for hours. That's shameful.

"At the moment you find me without cash. I've been without cash for at least a week. I'm not ashamed to say it. Every now and then my grandson that works says, 'here's something for your lunch.' It's very difficult."

MARIA GONZALEZ: "My husband, myself and our children crossed the border from Mexico into Texas in 1946. When we came to Texas there was no work. We stayed there for one year before we moved to California in 1947. We moved into a camp in Firebaugh. They were picking cotton.

"I did not work when we came to California. My children and my husband, my sons and daughters did. After that when cotton season came, I worked also. We picked cotton for $2.50 a hundred weight. It usually took all morning to pick one hundred pounds of cotton. The most I ever picked was three hundred pounds and then it was from sun up to sun set. Later on it went to $2.75 and then finally to $3.00 for a hundred weight. The children were paid the same as the adults and my children including my 12 year old worked alongside us. They never missed school—we wouldn't permit that. They worked weekends and when they were not in school.

"There was a problem with the language. We got along only if we took the children with us. The merchants wouldn't speak Spanish. If we didn't have the children along we couldn't transact business. In some cases the people could understand and speak

**Verna Baird: "If I wasn't working, social security wouldn't be enough... At the moment you find me without cash."**

Spanish but they refused to. This made it very difficult for us.

"We were in Firebaugh from 1947 to 1955. We didn't have to pay rent but we had to work for the owner of the camp. We couldn't leave and work for some other rancher. I had six children, but only five were with me. One was in the Marines. The house was very small. It had no bedrooms. Only one big room. We had nothing—we had just our clothes. We had to live and cook in the same quarters. There was a communal bath; one for the women and one for the men. There were outdoor toilets that were a half block away from the house.

"The camp was the same all the time I was there. We had one light bulb. That was the electricity. There was no light outside. There was no pavement anywhere. When it rained we were always flooded. There was no heat. We could buy a small heater but if we plugged it in we would blow a fuse and have no light. The schools were sixteen and seventeen miles away.

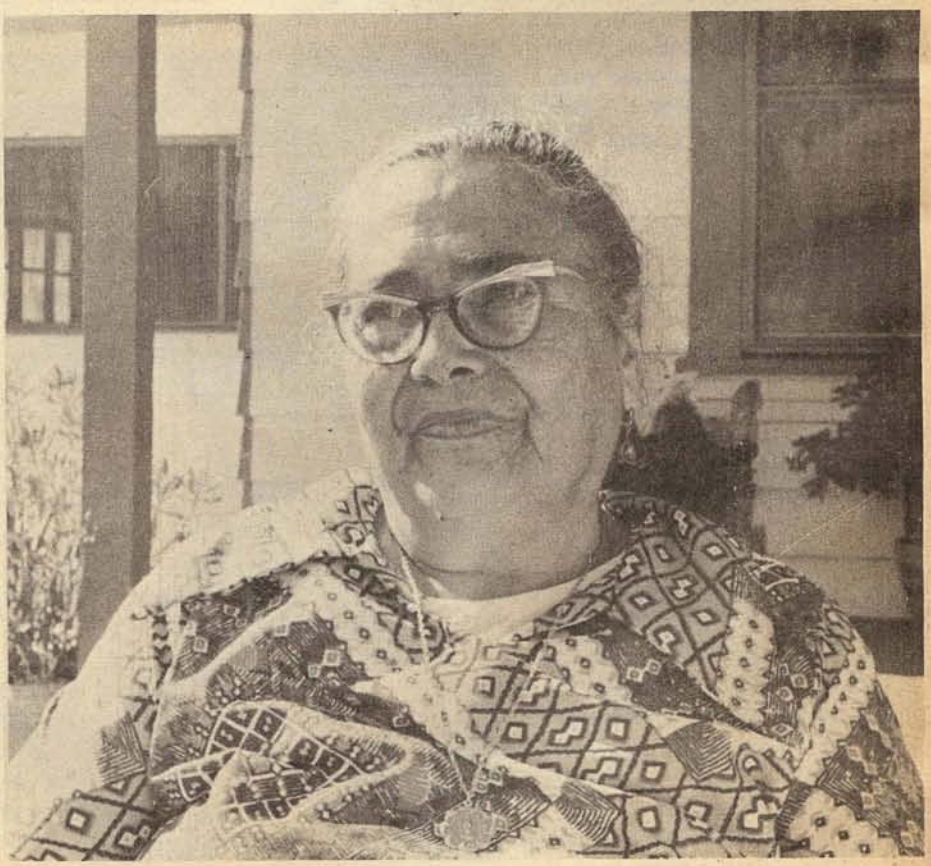
"We left Firebaugh in 1955 and moved to my present house in Stockton. It was a two bedroom house with a living room and a kitchen. Later we built on to it. I was still doing field work and my daughters began to work in a cannery. My husband and son continued to work in the fields. At that time they were paying 95 cents an hour.

"In August we would all leave and work in the fields. We worked for five or six weeks and then returned. If we continued the whole season, we would be paid $1.10 an hour. If we left before the season was over, we would be paid $1.00

"My husband died in 1963. He was 63 years old and he was still working in the fields at that time. I continued living with my son. Social Security gave me $250 once for funeral costs. My husband had worked twenty years on the railroad so we received a benefit of $95.27 once. An agent came from San Francisco. He had some papers for us to sign. We didn't want to sign them because we didn't know what they said. But he said if we didn't sign them we would get nothing. Later on I qualified for Social Security payments when I reached age 62, but I had to exist for a long period of time with no income.

"I receive $150 a month now. I also work in the emergency food bank and get paid $2.50 an hour. Sometimes we work for four hours a day, sometimes three, sometimes two. To continue to survive I took in a boarder. But without this additional help, I would not be able to survive.

"We are poor whether we are in Texas or California. There is a difference but we are still poor. Two of my sons provided miltary service for the United States. My oldest son was wounded in Korea. Things are better now. In Texas I'd have my home too. But I'd have to abandon it because you can't eat a house. The same can happen here. One suffers a great deal."□



**Maria Gonzales: "We are poor whether we are in Texas or California. . . One suffers a great deal."**

# NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

## *Needle Executions: The "Civilized" Way To Kill*

(San Francisco, Calif.) With America's first legal execution by lethal injection scheduled to occur in Texas in October, knowledgeable opponents of the death penalty fear that growing acceptance of the new "civilized" killing method could plunge the country back into capital punishment on its largest scale in decades.

Bills replacing electrocution with drugs were introduced last spring in several states. Gov. David Boren of Oklahoma signed the first such measure into law on May 10, and a similar law was enacted the next day in neighboring Texas. Another so-called "needle bill" was introduced, but not acted upon, in Florida a few weeks later.

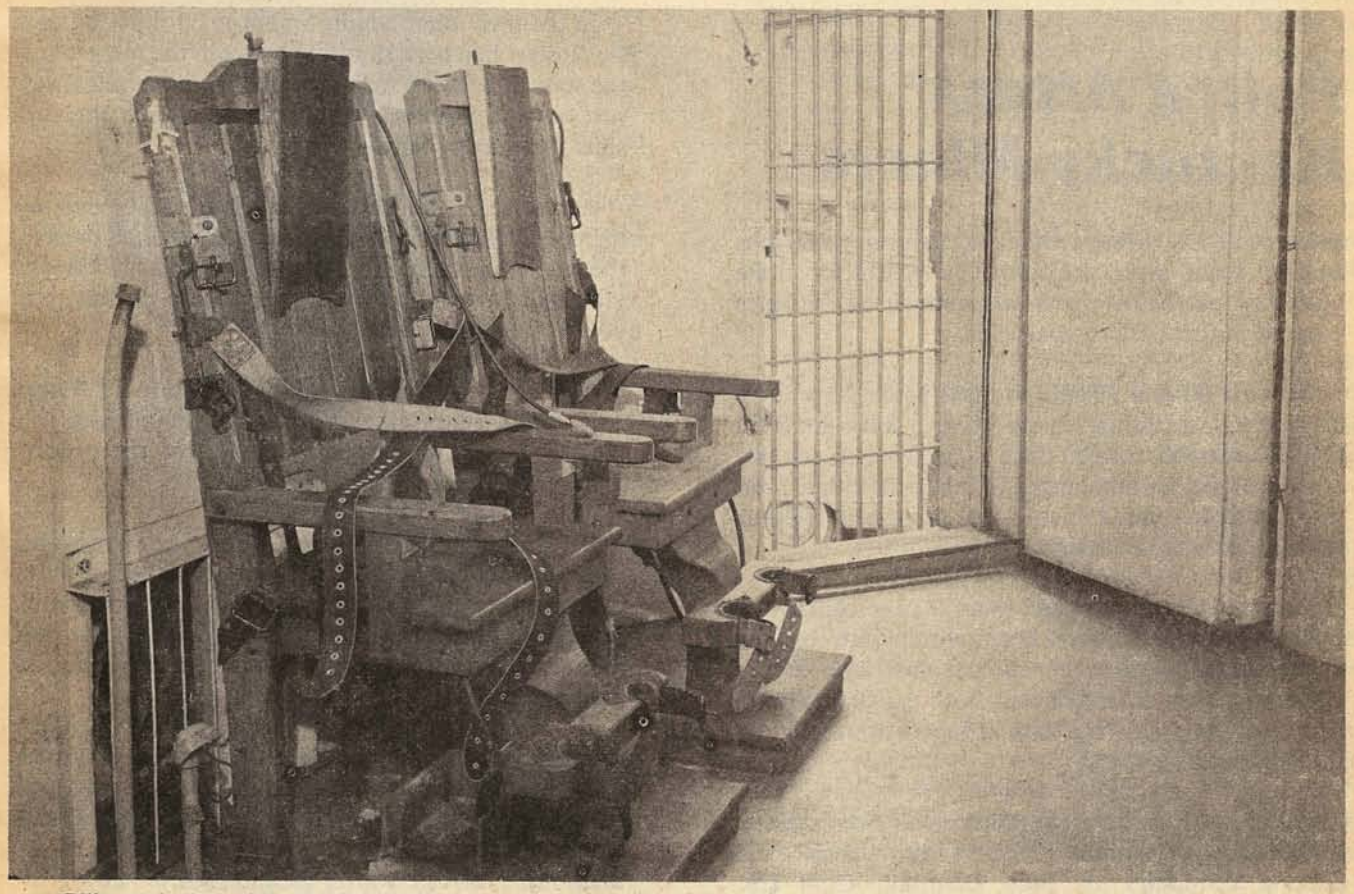
Lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union and the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund say the lethal injection idea may well take hold in many more states this year.

The Oklahoma statute provides for execution by a dual injection of drugs—one to render the prisoner unconscious, the other to kill. The Texas law calls for criminals to be stuck with a lethal dose of an "ultra-short-acting barbiturate" when still conscious.

Texas has 59 convicted murderers at the Ellis Unit near Huntsville, ranking it behind Florida (87), Ohio (71) and Georgia (60) in death row populations. Its convict-built electric chair has killed 361 men since it was first plugged in 53 years ago. But the last execution was carried out nearly 18 years ago.

Texas state Rep. Ben Grant and state Sen. Bill Braecklin sponsored the latest death measure. Grant calls the electric chair a "medieval torture chamber" that "creates a sensational atmosphere that makes heroes out of criminals." He ascribes his interest in lethal injection to some testimony he once heard on the liquidation of unwanted pets.

James Estelle, the Texas Director of Corrections—and the official responsible for executions actually



**Bills replacing electrocution with drugs have been introduced in several states, raising fears that a growing acceptance of the new "civilized" killing method could plunge the country back into capital punishment on its largest scale in decades.**

being performed—calls the change "a more civilized way of carrying out our responsibilities." And prison chaplain Rev. Clyde Johnston says, "I hesitate to use the word pleasant, but it would be just like someone going in, laying down and going to sleep." Opponents insist that execution in any form is wrong, regardless of how painless it may appear to legislators or witnesses.

John B. Duncan, executive director of the Texas Civil Liberties Union, contends the Texas legislature's appetite for the issue "may well represent more of a guilty conscience about having to support capital punishment for political survival in Texas than any underlying motive." Duncan also criticizes the state's medical establishment for maintaining a "lily-livered silence" on the matter, even though it purports to be a medical procedure and medical personnel and techniques doubtless will be employed in the execution.

Public Opinion, which in recent years has gradually swung back in favor of capital punishment, could be pushed even higher by the assumption that drug executions are somehow more humane—and more healthful for society—than the firing squad, the rope, the gas chamber or the chair.□

*Reprinted from Pacific News Service*

# Police Attack Kentucky Miners

(Stearns, Ky.) Miners trying to protect their jobs against scabs were set upon by Kentucky State Highway patrolmen here last month as violence erupted in the Eastern coalfields.

Between 80 and 90 miners, and some 20 women supporters, including many wives, were arrested Oct. 17 when 80 riot-equipped police waded into two crowds of pickets attempting to block the single road into the strike-bound Justus coal mine near Stearns in southeastern Kentucky.

Many of those arrested were badly beaten by police. Ten or 15 were hospitalized with broken arms, or elbows, concussions, and one miner suffered a blow so severe that both ear drums were ruptured. At least five state troopers were slightly injured.

For 15 months some 150 miners have been seeking a United Mine Workers contract with Sterns Coal Co., a subsidiary of Blue Diamond Coal Co. headquartered in Knoxville, Tenn.

The struggle between the company and workers at Stearns has been marked by frequent violence in the past, and the miners have picketed under bursts of machinegun fire. A sandbag bunker built by the miners earlier to protect them against the gunfire stood empty on a hillside overlooking the bloody scene last Monday afternoon. No shots were fired by either police or miners, however. Previously, one miner and seven company-hired guards had been wounded.

In an attempt to curb the violence, a McCreary County judge had gotten miners to agree in August to limit the numbers of pickets at the strike-site to six at any one time. In exchange the company agreed privately not to attempt to start production in the deep mine with non-union labor.

That uneasy truce lasted until Wednesday, Oct. 12, when the company sought to bring scabs into the mine with state policemen escorting them. The miners reacted Monday by blocking the road with a dozen or more cars and an overturned truck.

The picket line had been formed before daybreak. The miners had expected police to attempt to carry scabs onto mine property about 10:30 a.m. However, they did not show up. Two state police officers pulled up to the strikers at 11 a.m. and made a futile attempt to persuade the men to unclog the road. They left and returned 80 strong shortly after 2 p.m.

In the meantime, union organizers John Cox and Lee Potter had been shuttling between the miners and the state police who were grouping about a mile away just outside Stearns. Negotiations between the two sides apparently failed.

At about 2:15 Major Doug Storms, leading over 80 helmeted troopers, arrived in cars. He walked over to the hastily reassembling picket line and said, "Boys, y'all called the shots. We didn't want to do this, but you're all under arrest."

Another police officer said, "Violation of Judge Johnston's restraining orders. You're allowed six pickets. You're all in open violation of the orders. You're all under arrest."

Before any miner was given the choice of resisting or peacefully being arrested, troopers waded into the pickets swinging their clubs. The strikers, armed with makeshift clubs and sticks, swung back. For ten minutes the melee continued, but, in the end, the police prevailed.

At the head of the road into the mine, as troopers and miners fought, the wives and female relatives of pickets were attempting to prevent the additional troopers from reaching the picket site. Some 20 of them were arrested after belting police cars with rocks, bottles and baseball bats studded with 20-penny nails. At least one woman suffered a broken arm when hit by police clubs. One

**Stearns, Kentucky: "We'll be back. There's no way they're going to break our strike."**

14-year-old girl was arrested, as was a woman in her eighth month of pregnancy, and a woman in her middle 60s who was pulled from the porch of her home by police and dragged into a cruiser.

After the fight, Vanover Mahan, president of the local, his head bloody and his elbow crushed from a blow struck by police, told reporters: "I can't figure out why they want to do this when all we were trying to do was keep the scabs from taking our jobs."

Did he think the strike was broken with more than two-thirds of the union local's members under arrest? "No way," he said. "No. We'll be back. There's no way they're going to break our strike."

Tuesday afternoon, after spending the night in jails in surrounding counties, the strikers, except those still in hospitals, were released under their own recognizance. □

*Reprinted from In These Times*

# Ku Klux Klan Plans Vigilante Border Patrol

(San Diego, Calif.) Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke announced last month that up to 1,000 armed Klansmen will begin patrolling the Mexican-American border to block the entry of undocumented workers, Jews and non-Whites—with or without the approval of federal or state authorities.

Duke's announcement has caused an immediate uproar from a number of Mexican-American organizations who have called on the federal government to take steps to stop the Klan from enacting their vigilante action.

However, federal authorities stated last week that "no attempt" would be made to keep the KKK from carrying out their armed patrols—using the excuse that there are not that many Klan members to warrant any response from federal police.

At a recent press conference in Los Angeles, Manuel Lopez of the Mexican-American Political Association warned that, due to strained U.S.-Mexican relations, "The last thing we need is racist instigators along a sensitive border at a sensitive time in history."

Lopez warned that the Klan could easily provoke an explosive international incident. Coupled with this, said Lopez, is the fact that militant Chicanos may step out to forcefully interfere with the KKK's vigilante action.

The Chicano leader pointed out that a telegram was sent to President Carter last week emphasizing

that "only with swift action from your personal authority can this anticipated violence be avoided."

Duke, national spokesman for the New Orleans-based Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, was in California last week to announce the Klan's vigilante plan. His presence provoked disruptions in San Diego, Los Angeles, Sacramento and Berkeley.

In Sacramento, protestors chanting "Death To The Klan" ripped a hotel door off by the hinges in an attempt to halt a press conference. Duke had come to the California capital to talk to California Governor Jerry Brown, but Brown refused to talk with him.

Duke was able to meet with INS official James O'Keefe and was given a tour of the Port of Entry at San Ysidro. Although O'Keefe claimed that the meeting with Duke was "routine," Duke stated in a press conference the INS and the border patrol "are fully cooperating with the Klan."□

*Reprinted from The Black Panther*

# Thousands Demand Puerto Rican Independence

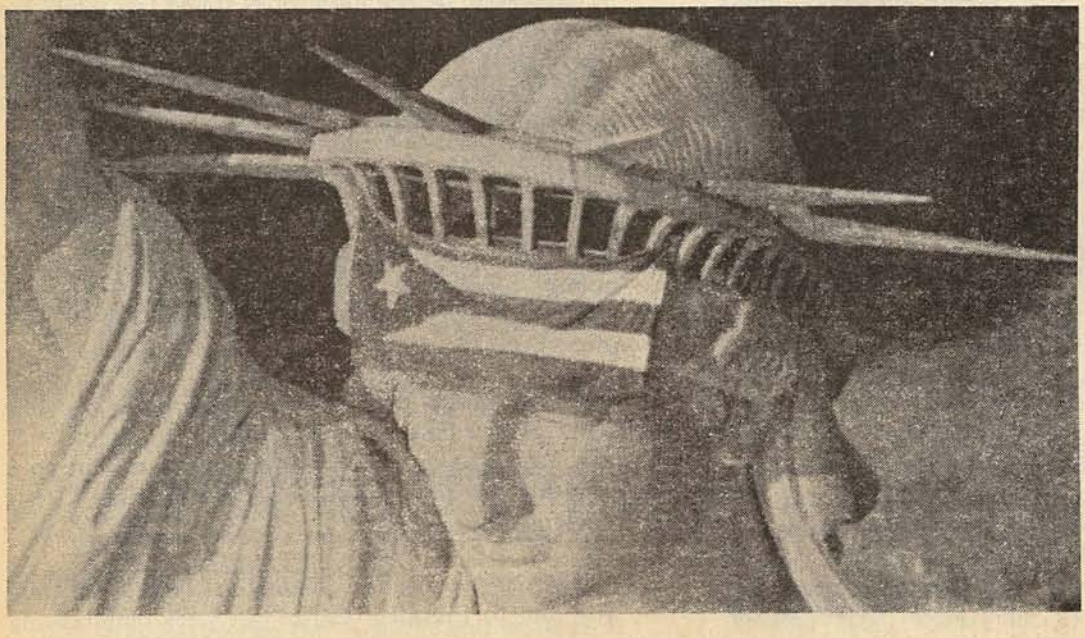
(Marion, Ill.) Over 300 people chanting "Grand Jury, FBI, U.S. justice is a lie," demanded the release of political prisoners from the U.S. penitentiary here on October 30. They demanded the release of Leonard Peltier, a Native American activist; Mexicano activists Eddie Sanchez and Jessie Lopez; Herman Bell and Shahid Muhammed Faris from the Black community and Raphael Cancel Miranda.

Raphael Cancel Miranda is one of five Puerto Rican Independistas who have become popularly known as the Five Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners. Their imprisonment has been met with increased reaction by the Puerto Rican people, who have ceaselessly demanded their unconditional release from federal prisons. Four of the five were originally jailed following an armed attack against the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. in 1954. The fifth was jailed in 1950 after an armed attack on Blair House, the temporary residence of then President Harry Truman. The 1950's were marked by all-out repressive attacks against the Puerto Rican independence movement on that island by the U.S. government.

Meanwhile, other demonstrations for Puerto Rican independence and freedom of the five nationalist prisoners occurred in New York and Washington D.C. that same week. In N.Y., a group of 30 Puerto Rican nationalists seized the statue of Liberty on New York's Liberty Island. They were removed by police after a nine hour siege.

In Washington, D.C., nearly a thousand demonstrators marched in front of the White House chanting, "Free Puerto Rico, Free the Four." One of the original five nationalists imprisoned in the fifties, Andres Figueroa Cordero was recently released from prison because he is dying of cancer. He has returned to Puerto Rico where he also took part in a similar rally on October 30.

Rosa Borenstein, executive secretary of the Puerto



**Numerous demonstrations across the country took place last month demanding, "Free the Five, Free Puerto Rico."**

Rican Solidarity Committee, which sponsored the Washington, D.C. protest, charged that the other four "have been jailed for an unusually long period of time and we believe that their imprisonment right now is political persecution."□

# *U.N. Conference Calls For Action Against Genocide Of Indian Peoples*

(Geneva, Switzerland) The first United Nations (U.N.) International Non-Government (NGO) Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas recently held in Geneva, Switzerland, concluded with a call for world action to combat the colonial and genocidal policies directed against American Indians.

In its recommendations for a program of action, the four-day conference unamimously called for yearly observance of "October 12 [Columbus Day], the day of the so-called 'discovery' of America, as an International Day of Solidarity with the Indigenous People of the Americas."

Over 250 delegates attended the conference, representing 60 Indian nations and peoples from 15 American countries and over 50 organizations from various countries, the **Guardian** reports.

The Indian delegations came from Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatamala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Parguay, Peru, Surinam, the U.S. and Venezuela. Some governments prevented delegates from attending.

Testifying before the plenary session, American Indian Movement (AIM) activist Russell Means said: "We are people who live in the belly of the monster, the monster being the United States of America...I come not to turn the other cheek...

"The President of the U.S.—to show you what a racist he is—talks about human rights while my people are suffering genocide, not only in the U.S. but in the entire hemisphere—planned genocide by the government.

"Someone once said," Means concluded, "that you can tell the power of a country by the oppression its people will tolerate. No longer are we going to tolerate the monster."

After hearing the Indians' reports and examining documents on cultural aggression and forced sterilization, the conference's Social-Cultural Commission concluded that the American Indians must be guaranteed their right to live on the basis of their own culture, values and ideals. The committee called upon all NGO's to give all possible financial and moral support to the American Indians' defense of their culture.

The Commission recommended that "the right of all indigenous peoples to return and control their land, suitable to live an economically viable existence in accordance with their own customs and traditions, be respected."

The convention recommended that the U.N. Special Committee on Decolonization hold hearings on all issues affecting the American Indian.□

*Reprinted from The Black Panther*

**American Indian Movement (AIM) activist Russell Means, testifying before the first United Nations Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas said, "The President of the U.S. talks about human rights while my people are suffering genocide, not only in the U.S. but in the entire hemisphere."**

# *Stormy History Of Protest Against Apartheid In South Africa*

*The following feature story on the rise and development of the broad-based Black Consciousness Movement in South Africa was compiled by* Africa News *and is reprinted from* The Black Panther.

*"To stop us now they will have to kill us all first."*
*—Steve Biko, March, 1973, in response to being served with a banning order.*

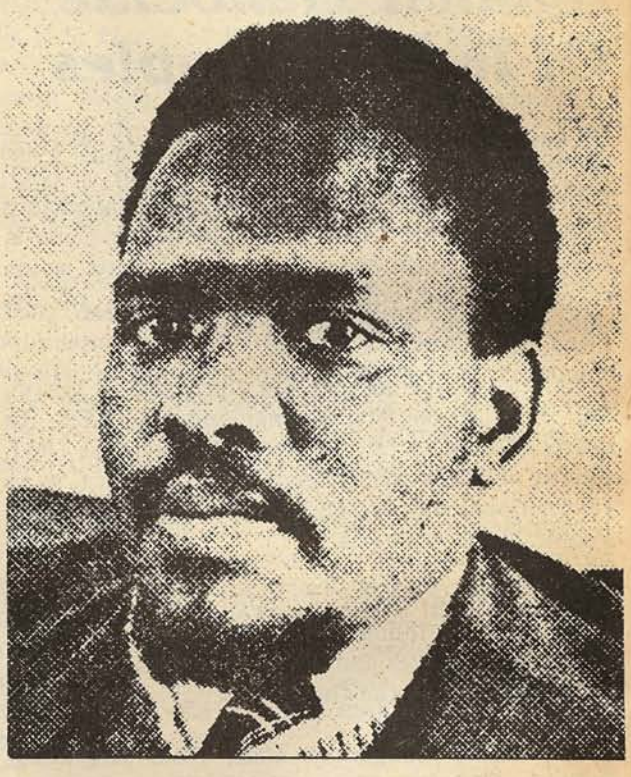
In December, 1968, a group of Black students met at Marianhill in South Africa to discuss the formation of an all-Black student organization. Until then, most had been participants in the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS), ostensibly a multiracial organization though its membership was 90 per cent White. Frustrations had mounted at the NUSAS general conference the previous summer when an all-White executive was elected.

From the NUSAS meeting the Blacks had moved to a conference of the University Christian Movement (UCM), a predominately Black group whose radical White members raised no objections to a Black caucus in it's ranks. It was there that Steve Biko, a medical student from the University of Natal (Black Section), rallied support for the Marianhill meeting.

The initial response was cautious interest. South African history had left Blacks with a deep feeling of inferiority and a sense of gratitude towards the White liberals who defied government policy by allowing Blacks into their organizations. Many at Marianhill argued that an exclusively Black group would seem an acceptance of apartheid. Others had security fears. "Any formation of a purely non-White body shall be subject to a lot of scrutiny," declared one statement from the meeting, "and so the chances of the organization lasting are very little."

But by the meeting's end, Steve Biko, who had neither doubts nor fears, had persuaded the participants to go ahead, and SASO—the South African Students Organization—was formally inaugerated the following July.

From the beginning, SASO was audacious and energetic in a way no political group in South Aftica had been since the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress were banned in 1960. With Biko as its first president, it developed a program that, more than any single factor, has led to the spirit of resistance among South Africans today.



**Steve Biko, leader of the South African student movement, who was recently murdered by the South African government.**

The response of the South African government has been a fierce new level of repression by most accounts unparalleled even in South Africa.

A total of 45 political detainees, held without trial, have died in South Africa police custody. Twenty-one of those deaths have occurred in the last 18 months. The victims have included schoolchildren, such as 16-year-old Dumisani Mbatha of Soweto, trade unionists like Lawrence Ndzanga of the Railway and Harbour Workers' Union, and Joseph Mdluli, a leader of the African National Congress.

The ranks of every dissident organization have been thinned by bannings and detentions of people of all races, and some Black student and community groups have lost their entire leadership time after

time. Political trials have sapped energy and resources. Some 400 people are already serving sentences for political offenses and thousands of others have been arrested. An unknown number are being detained indefinitely without charge.

The resilience of Black organizations in the face of such harassment has been remarkable. "The entire leadership of SASO has been crushed," said the **Cape Times** in March of 1973, when eight leaders were banned and placed under house arrest. Another SASO official was arrested soon after, upon returning from a trip to Europe and the U.S.

## STUNNED

The next year, in February, Blacks were stunned when Abraham Tiro, a SASO vice-resident who had fled to neighboring Botswana, was killed by a parcel bomb. And last August, SASO General Secretary Mapetla Mohapi, 29, died in detention in East London.

Meanwhile, arrests and bannings continued. Twenty-six leaders of SASO and its community counterpart, the Black Peoples Convention (BPC), were detained in September of 1974, and thirteen more were picked up during the next two months.

Among the many SASO detainees in September, 1976, were three former vice-presidents, the SASO permanent organizer, the secretary general, the director of publications, and three former presidents. Numerous other SASO activists remain confined under banning orders.

The BPC and various high school groups—notably, the Soweto Students Representative Council (SSRC)—have been similarly affected.

Political trials have become commonplace, involving members of the outlawed ANC and PAC as well as the semi-open Black consciousness groups. In separate trials ending this year, nine ANC members and nine SASO/BPC leaders were convicted under the Terrorism Act and are now serving sentences of varying lengths.

A perusal of the statistics leaves one wondering where the continuing revolt comes from. Much of the answer is found in the origins of SASO, and in the political decisions it made about the role it would play in South African liberation.

## POLITICAL PROGRAM

From the beginning SASO made a sharp break with the cautiousness of the multiracial opposition groups, and took stands which are still controversial among liberal critics of the regime. For example, it has remained implacaby opposed to foreign investments in South Africa, even when investors have tried to present themselves as serious forces for change. The current effort, led by Black American clergyman Leon Sullivan, to pressure firms to sign a statement of principles regarding their South African operations, gets no sympathy from SASO.

As early as 1972, SASO dismissed similar action by the Polaroid corporation, saying, "We belive that such experiments are only designed to divide the Black community along class lines—to create a new Black bourgeoisie which will be resistant to the creation of a classless society."

As early as its Second Congress in 1971, SASO expressed "solidarity with the students and the indigenous peoples of Namibia in their determination to rid themselves of [South Africa's] unwarranted occupation." It condemned African states which entered into dialogue with South Africa, warning that "Through the use of trade, aid, and with the potential use of her military power always lurking in the background, South Africa is intent on establishing Black client states" in a policy "designed to consolidate the economic capitalism of South Africa."

To those who yelled "Red scare," SASO replied, "Communism might be a threat to capitalism and Western interests, but apartheid and its racism is a threat to humanity and the dignity of man."

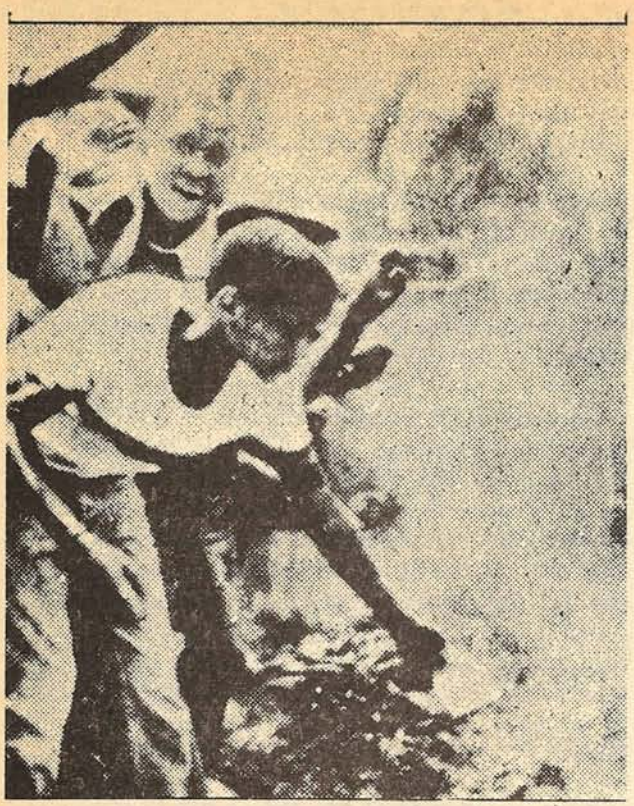
SASO has always been consistently opposed to any form of cooperation with the government-established Bantustans, the small fragmented reserves slated for eventual independence by apartheid planners. Feelings on that issue run so strong that SASO's third President, Temba Sono, was relieved of his position and drummed out of the organization when he made a speech suggesting negotiations with Bantustan leaders like Zulu chief Gatsha Buthelezi. Up until that time, Sono had been a highly popular and effective official.

Among SASO's objections to Buthelezi and his counterparts was the fact that they had joined "the Black puppets who go overseas under the cloak of leadership and persuade foreign investors to stay in South Africa with the belief that it is for the betterment of the Black man."

Despite its controversial positions, however, SASO has devoted its major efforts to building a firm base in the Black communities. It is the programs for the urban and rural masses which "will serve as a barometer to judge our own relevance," said now-detained former president Nyameko Pityana in 1971.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

That same year, more than half the organization's $32,000 budget went for community field work,



**Azanian (South African) youth burn books in protest of apartheid.**

leaving the smaller amount to cover the general secretary's salary, annual conference and office expenses, and all member-related programs. SASO correctly predicted that it would be the organizing and outreach done in the crucial stages which would determine its ability to survive an inevitable government crackdown.

Community development programs for 1972 included:

1) health research and preventative medicine clinics;
2) literacy projects;
3) building and repair projects (homes and schools);
4) a pre-school program for children up to six years old;
5) primary programs for children aged 6-16;
6) high school programs;
7) vocational guidance classes; and
8) leadership training courses for urban workers, emphasizing organizing skills, literacy, health problems, and general education.

The high school programs foresaw clearly the current importance of young students in opposing the government. "This is the period of initial political readiness," explained a SASO document in 1972. "Use must be made of the already existing dramatic, debating societies and high school organizations. Students should be encouraged to sell SASO pamphlets and read Black literature in general. These students should also be involved in community development projects."

"The importance of the SASO stance is not really to be found in SASO per se," said Steve Biko, "for SASO has got the natural limitations of being a student organization with an ever-changing membership. Rather it is to be found in the fact that this new approach heralded a new era in which Blacks are beginning to see with greater clarity the immensity of their responsibility."

The Black Consciousness Movement quickly became so solidly established among the population that police reprisals served only to widen its scope. Young people restricted to rural areas used their new homes as bases for further organizing. Biko and other activists banned to the eastern Cape province built the Zanempilo clinic in 1975, with funds raised by the BPC as part of its Black Community Programs.

There are also signs that the Black Consciousness Movement is developing new tactics to meet the crackdown. Leaders of Soweto's Student Representative Council have been prominent among the thousands of high school students arrested or exiled during the last year. But when the last public set of officers, including President Sechaba Montsitsi, was detained on June 10, Soweto students issued a statement that future leaders would operate clandestinely.

The death of Steve Biko on September 12 at the age of 30, while in police custody, illustrates the limited options facing the White government. Such well-known activists can either be living inspirations or dead martyrs, but either way they are a threat.

Still, not even the most optimistic government opponent believes the struggle in South Africa is nearing its end. SASO has always warned it members tht victories would be sporadic and hard-won. And despite its emphasis on self-reliance, the Black Consciousness Movement has recently accelerated its pleas for external support.

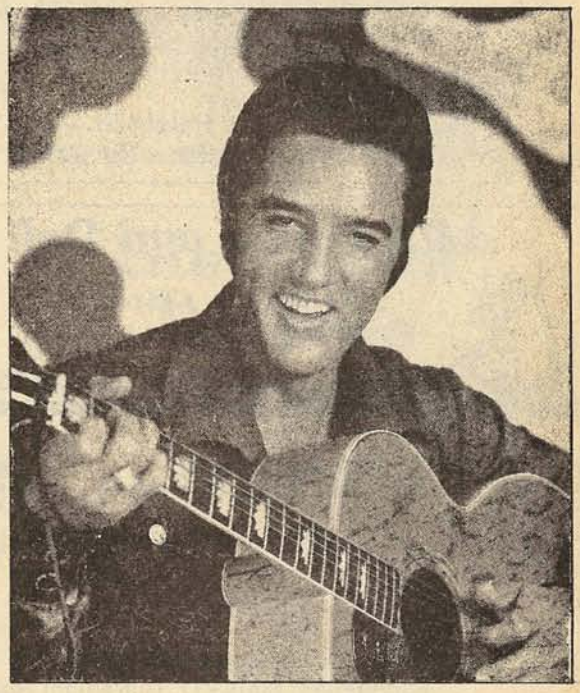
Leaders of the BPC have told reporters that international pressure may be partially responsible for the less violent tactics used by police against demonstrators in recent weeks. They feel South Africa is walking a thin line trying to prevent resistance activities from surging ahead, while not using methods which will embarass Western allies over their economic and military support.

It is a line which can be maintained only temporarily, if Blacks continue their campaign. "The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed," said Steve Biko in 1971.□

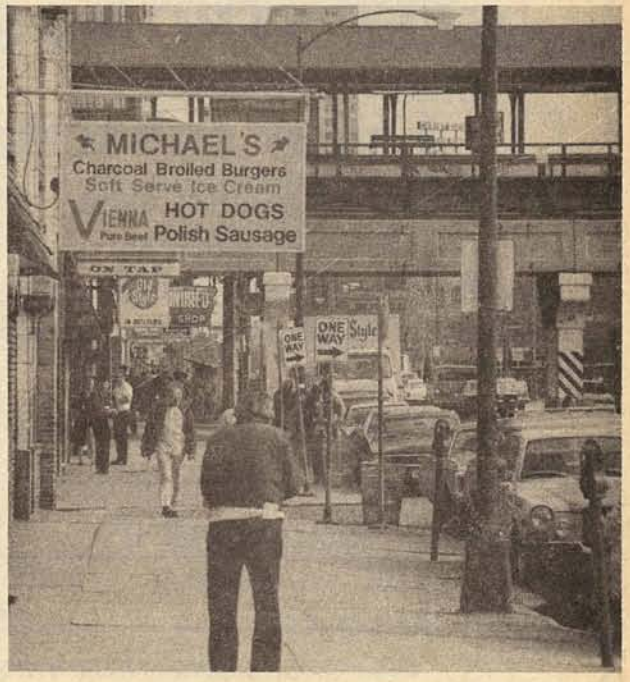
*Reprinted from The Black Panther*

# The Best of Elvis

## IN THE GHETTO



As the snow flies
On a cold and grey Chicago morning
A poor little baby child is born
In the ghetto
And his mama cries
'Cause if there's one thing she don't need
It's another hungry mouth to feed
In the ghetto
People don't you understand
The child needs a helping hand
Or he'll grow to be an angry
Young man someday
Take a look at you and me
Are we too blind to see?
Do we simply turn our heads and look the
Other way?
Well the world turns
And a hungry little boy with a running nose
Plays in the street as the cold wind
Blows in the ghetto
And his hunger burns
So he starts
To roam the streets at night
And he learns to steal and he learns
How to fight
In the ghetto.
Then one night in desperation the
Young man breaks away
He buys a gun he steals a car
He tries to run but don't get far
And his mama cries
As a crowd gathers round an angry
Young man
Face down in the street with a gun
In his hand
In the ghetto
And as her young man dies
On a cold and grey Chicago morning
Another little baby child is born
In the ghetto
And his mama cries...



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*"All these programs satisfy the deep needs of the community but they are not solutions to our problems. That is why we call them survival programs, meaning survival pending revolution."—Huey P. Newton*

## Each One Teach One Program

Founded on the concept that it is everyone's responsibility to teach our children the skills necessary to survive, this program concretely is designed to raise the reading skills of the neighborhood youth.

## Tenants Survival Union

Provides assistance and community support in landlord-tenant disputes. Building management and maintenance skills which exist in the community are put to use in order to improve neglected buildings.

## Legal Education & Defense Program

Offers counseling, advice and assistance in finding an attorney when necessary in any kind of legal, welfare or social security dispute.

Monthly Country Music Sunday at the Uptown People's Community Service Center

## Black Lung Association

Provides assistance to ex-coal miners and their widows in their struggle to get the benefits they are entitled to by law.

Mutual aid programs also exist to deal with basic food, transportation and medical needs to the more severely afflicted black lung victims.

## Intercommunal News Service

Provides news and information about the world and poor and oppressed communities through the distribution of *Keep Strong* magazine and *The Black Panther.*

## Food Cooperatives

Provides good quality foods at lower than supermarket prices through community participation and community cooperative buying.

# THE COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE FOR HUEY P. NEWTON AND THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

**ERICKA HUGGINS, ELAINE BROWN, HUEY P. NEWTON and the children of the Oakland Community School proudly receive a commendation from the California legislature.**

**Huey P. Newton, the Founder of the Black Panther Party, has returned voluntarily from exile to confront in open court the false charges and the murderous secret police attacks that forced him to leave the United States in 1974.**

I want to help get Justice for Huey! Enclosed is my contribution toward Huey's bail and defense: ☐$500 ☐$250 ☐$100 ☐$50 ☐other $_____
(state amount)

(Friends who contribute $500 or more will receive a 14K gold "JUSTICE" pin.)

☐ I can also volunteer to help.

*Make all tax-deductible donations and checks payable to:* The Capp Street Foundation, Suite 217, Claremont Hotel, Berkeley, California 94705.

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____